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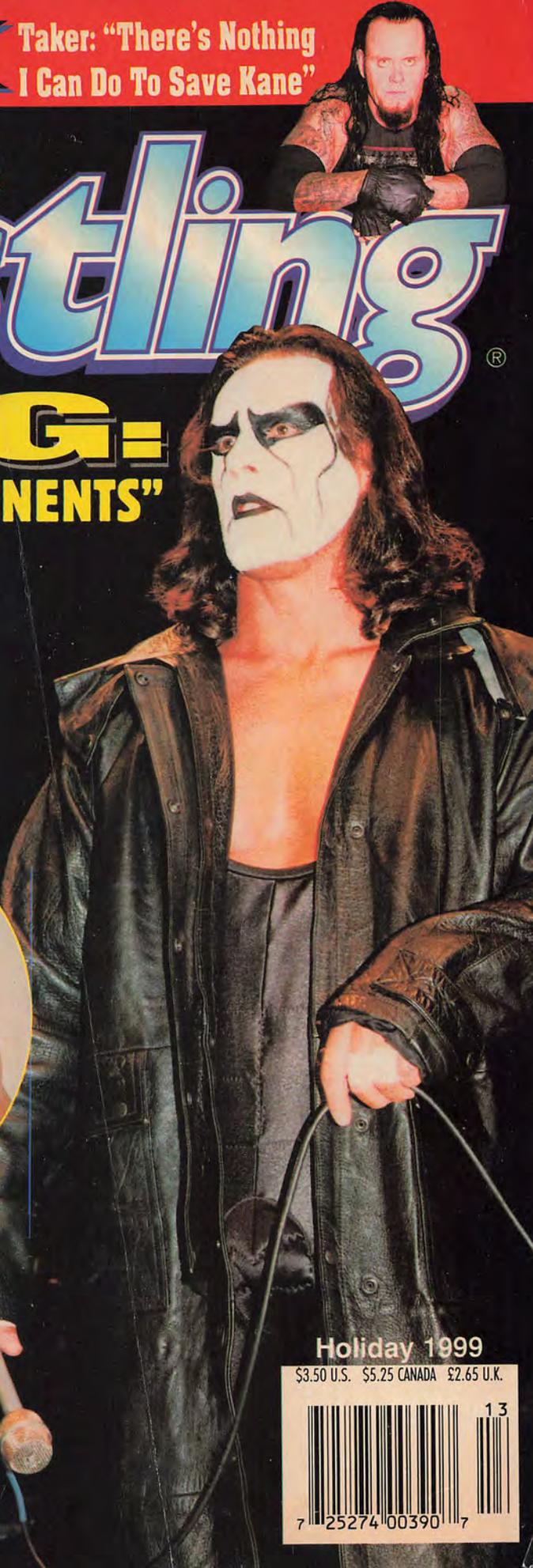
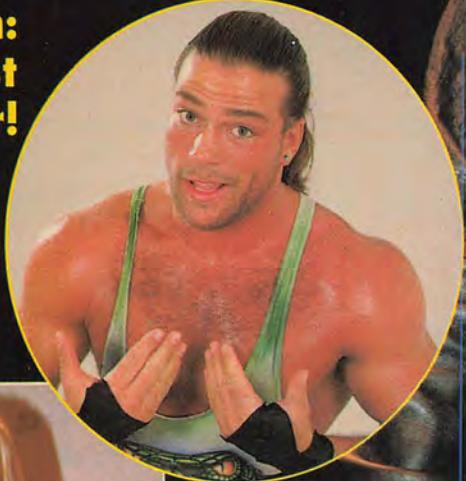
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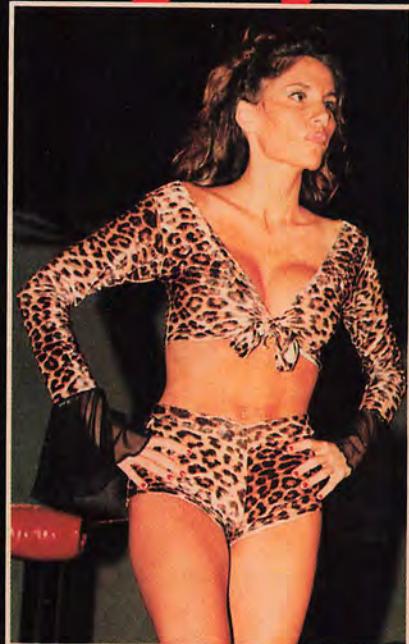
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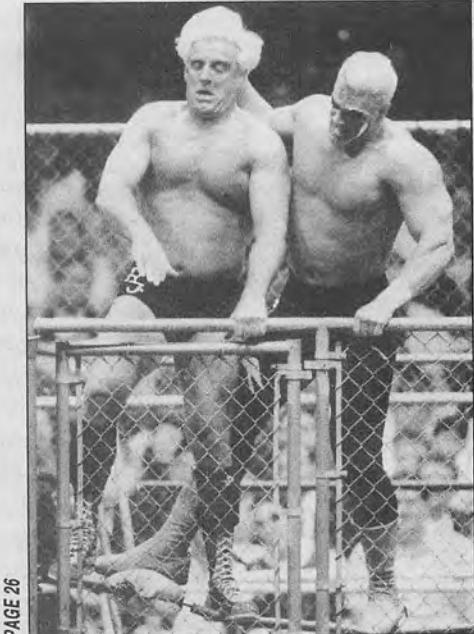
HOLIDAY 1999

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November 23, 1999

Sincerely Yours

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Reader Camille A. Sison wants everyone to ease up on the Rena Mero bashing. Sison says Mero didn't leave the WWF for financial reasons, but because of more important personal matters. It's debatable.

PIECES OF ADVICE

I have two things to say:

1) People should quit trashing Rena Mero. She's a very talented, intelligent, and sexy woman. She added sex appeal to the WWF. She didn't leave the WWF because of the money. She left for other reasons—reasons that put her reputation in jeopardy.

2) Great, young, athletic Edge is not getting the recognition he very well deserves! His energy and agility are just as enduring as X-Pac's. Enough about Steve Austin and The Rock. I like them, but it's time to put the spotlight on some new faces, such as Edge's. He's the one still keeping Gangrel on a leash and not letting Gangrel get the best of him.

You need to put more stuff on Edge in the magazine and tone down the coverage of Austin, The Rock, and Vince McMahon.

CAMILLE A. SISON
Danbury, CT

CREDIBILITY

What a silly story on Justin Credible you had in your November issue ("Justin Credible: Will He Run Himself Out Of ECW Next?"). Your idea is just plain ridiculous.

Justin Credible knows that he is one of the premier wrestlers in the world. All he is trying to do is rid



Justin Credible isn't just good. He isn't just great. He's just incredible. At least Matt Oak says he is. He thinks Credible is right when he insists he drove certain ECW stars out of the promotion.

ECW's roster of the dregs that live along the bottom of it. Is it Credible's fault that Shane Douglas tucked tail and ran away to WCW? Same with Sandman (*Hakkk ... sorry about that—I had something in my throat*) and Mikey Whipwreck. He's run all three men out of ECW simply because he made it impossible for them to stay. If they had, he would have finished their careers.

Rumor has it that he's even running Buh Buh Ray and D-Von

STANLEY WESTON
Founder



Mike Tyson (shown kaying Shawn Michaels) was the target of criticism by Stu Saks in the November '99 issue of INSIDE WRESTLING. Reader Gary Sumner appreciates Saks' candor; it's one of the reasons he buys our magazines.

Dudley out of ECW and that they're in talks with the WWF. They're just two more punks that ECW can live without.

Long live Justin Credible—it gets easier for him with every defection.

MATT OAK
Northbrook, IL

NASH RETIRED?

I know that wrestling fans are supposed to be gullible, but do Kevin Nash and WCW actually think that we believe Nash is going to stay retired from professional wrestling? Get serious.

So Kevin Nash lost a retirement match. So what. Many men have lost retirement matches in the past, only to find some insignificant loophole that allows them back inside the squared circle.

•Madusa lost a retirement match to Akira Hokuto at The Great American Bash '97. She's back in WCW.

•Ric Flair lost a retirement match to Hulk Hogan at Halloween Havoc '94, and he came back only a few months later.

And these two are but a few of the examples!

Why should fans believe that this so-called retirement of Kevin Nash will be any different?

MARK DANGIN
Dublin, CA

NO TYSON TWO-STEP

Wow, that was a strong "Reporter's Notebook" by Stu Saks that appeared in your November '99 issue.

I have to give Saks credit for criticizing Mike Tyson head-on. Not many reporters would do that, especially those who value their ears, but straight shooting is what I've come to expect from the excellent line of wrestling publications from London. Keep up the good work.

GARY SUMNER
Van Zandt, WA

MONDAY NIGHT MADNESS

There is no doubt in my mind that diehard football fans will be outraged when they read this letter (if they read this letter), but I must admit that Monday night wrestling has supplanted *Monday Night Football* as the premier sporting event on Monday night.

(Continued on page 52)

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REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

Jeff Jarrett should be hung by one of his guitar strings. No, that might be too quick.

This man is despicable. In fact, after what he did recently, he moves right into the number-two spot on my all-time most hated list. (Sgt. Slaughter, for siding with Iraq during the Persian Gulf War, is locked into the number-one spot for all eternity.) If any of you missed it (and based on the terrific Nielsen ratings the WWF's been getting for *Smackdown* on UPN, not too many people did), Jarrett was on the microphone stating his opinion on women in the workplace—in particular Chyna—in anticipation of their match at Unforgiven. While he was giving his barefoot and pregnant spiel, Jarrett spotted the greatest woman wrestler of all-time, Fabulous Moolah, at ringside. Surely Moolah, who wrestled women exclusively during her nearly three decades as champion, would back his opinion that Chyna had no business in the ring with him.

Well, Moolah didn't feel that way at all. In fact, Fab Moo went on to say that she, too, wanted to wrestle men, but they were too cowardly to give her the chance. She made it clear that she felt Jarrett was a coward, or he wouldn't be making such a spectacle of himself. Then she told him she expected Chyna to beat him for the Intercontinental belt.

With no more provocation than that, Jarrett lifted his guitar and smashed it over Moolah's head. Moolah dropped unconscious and Jarrett simply smiled at the sight. Seconds later, Mae Young went over to check on her friend. Jarrett saw the opportunity to assert his manhood once again, trapping Young, another woman in her 70s, in a figure-four leglock and not releasing until forced to do so by referees and WWF officials.

Jarrett is scum, a disgrace to the male gender, a disgrace to all of humanity. If a hanging is perhaps too severe a fate, I hope a wrestler—preferably a woman—gives him a beating so memorable that somebody writes a song about it.

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NAMES MA

SCORES OF TAZ' fans were shocked and disappointed recently when it became known that "The Human Suplex Machine" had agreed to a deal with the WWF after reports on his Web site indicated that he had signed a three-year deal with ECW. Although no deal was formally announced as of press time, Taz' tearful exit at Anarchy Rulz after dropping the World title to **Mike Awesome** indicates that his tenure at ECW has come to an end. For years, Taz had worked for ECW not under the auspices of a con-



TAZ

tract, but a handshake deal with ECW owner **Paul Heyman**. According to ECW insiders, a contract was nearly finalized when the WWF expressed an interest in the 31-year-old champion.

Despite being greeted with taunts of "You sold out!" Taz remained very professional at Anarchy Rulz and even shook Awesome's hand before presenting him the belt after the match.

Never conducted an interview

with a wrestler while he sat in a tub of corn starch, but that's exactly where **Billy Gunn** was when he vowed that, win or lose at SummerSlam '99, he was



BILLY GUNN

going to get even with **The Rock** for infecting his butt with poison ivy.

"There are unwritten rules that even the dirtiest wrestlers live by," Gunn explained. "You don't steal another wrestler's favorite maneuver and you don't try to intentionally end your opponent's career. Rock tried to take away my livelihood by attacking my greatest asset. He violated that rule, and I'm gonna teach him a damn lesson."

Several months ago, The Rock hired a masseuse to give B.A. an herbal rubdown, but Gunn had no idea the herbs she used were poisonous. Says The Rock: "If that jabroni thinks a little poison ivy is uncomfortable, imagine how he'll feel trying to get a size-13 Rockport out of his [butt]."

Expect WCW's hardcore division to be gradually phased out. Word in the WCW locker room is that several wrestlers are not too crazy about competing under hardcore rules, especially after hardcore champion **Dave "Fit" Finlay** suffered a career-threatening injury at the hands of **Brian**



DAVE FINLAY

Knobs on July 25.

Knobs set up a table on the corner and sent Finlay crashing through it with an Irish whip, but the formica table top pierced Finlay's leg below the knee and severed a nerve. Finlay also injured his neck and head during the sequence and was carried from ring in a stretcher while paramedics mopped up a pool of his blood in the ring.

Emergency surgery was performed to repair the nerve in Finlay's leg, but as of press time, the prognosis was not good. Finlay still had no feeling below his left knee and there is talk that he may need a rod installed in his

KIN' NEWS

By Frank Krewda

leg to prevent a clubbed foot. He is expected to miss at least a year, if he returns at all.

Manabu Nakanishi surprised



MANABU NAKANISHI

New Japan fans when he upset IWGP heavyweight champ **Keiji Muto** in the final round of the G-1 Climax tournament. Nakanishi used his torture rack to get the submission win. The former Olympian also defeated **Shiro Koshinaka**, **Shinya Hashimoto**, and **Hiroyoshi Tenzan** en route to the tournament victory. "I was fortunate to get the win," Nakanishi said, "but I deserved it because I worked very hard. It is time that the youth of New Japan is served" ... Look out for a showdown in Music City Wrestling between **The Colorado Kid** and injured WWF competitor **Brian Christopher**, who showed up in Nashville not long ago looking for a match with Colorado. "All I hear about is the big, bad Colorado Kid," Christopher complained. "Well, I want to remind everybody



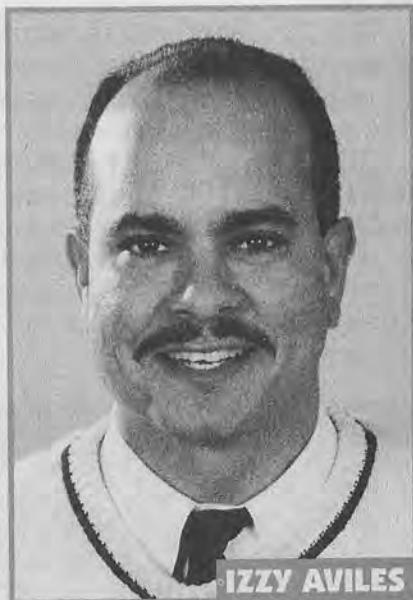
BRIAN CHRISTOPHER

in Nashville that I'm still the man around here, and as soon as my knee gets better, I'm going to prove it by trashing The Colorado Kid" ... Former Royal Kangaroo and Sheepherder **Lord Jonathan Boyd** died of a heart attack on August 7 at age 56. Boyd wrestled mainly in the NWA and held several regional titles in the '70s and '80s, but he was better known for his tag team exploits. He captured a slew of NWA belts over the years, mainly with **Luke Williams** and **Rip Morgan** as his partners.

Erase the name **Bart Gunn** from your All-Japan programs, fans. It seems that name belonged to the WWF. So when The Artist Formerly Known As Bart Gunn failed to renew his WWF contract at the end of July, he was forced to find a new name. He's now wrestling as **Mike Burton** ... **Ace Darling** won the ISPW heavyweight title from **Chris Candido** on July 29, ending Candido's one-week title

reign. "I don't know what happened. I thought things were looking up for me," Candido moaned.

Grande Wrestling Alliance pro-



IZZY AVILES

moter **Izzy Aviles** is forecasting a showdown between himself and boxer vs. wrestler champion **Damon Feldman**. Angered by Aviles' inability to provide decent competition, "The Jewish Bomber" has vowed to overthrow the promotion. His renegade group—the **World Wrestling Order**—has already recruited wrestlers **Jake Lawless** and **James Proper** and has threatened to steal prospects from GWA's training facility. "Everybody knows Feldman ain't no trainer," Aviles said. "But the new kids don't, and the only way prove it is in the ring."

Just a reminder, fans: To hear the latest in wrestling news, don't forget to call the "PW Hotline," where Associate Editor **Will Welsh** and I phone in exclusive updates every weekday and after pay-per-views. Check it out! □

ROSENBAUM TOLD ME not to come here. He specifically said, "Lenker, don't go to Albany. But if you do go, see if you can go a few days early and drop by Saratoga. At least spend a day at the racetrack. Don't waste your time by going to Albany and not going to the races."

I didn't listen to Rosenbaum. I don't like horse racing. To tell you the truth, I didn't like Albany much, either. No good places to eat, or so I thought.

"That's where you're wrong," Rosenbaum told me after the fact. "The only good thing about Albany is that it has great places to eat. You just didn't bother asking me."

Okay. Enough of this. I went to Albany. I saw. I didn't conquer. But The Dudley Boyz conquered, and that's the only reason I was at the Pepsi Center in Albany, New York, on Tuesday, September 7, 1999. I came to see D-Von and Buh Buh Ray Dudley, the eight-time former ECW tag team champions, wrestle in the WWF.

ON THE ROAD

With Dave Lenker

This was something I had to see. If someone had told me four years ago that the Dudleys would one day wrestle in the WWF, I would have told them to have their crystal balls examined. Four years ago, when they made their debuts in ECW, the Dudleys were quite possibly the least likely team to ever wrestle in the big time, no less the slick big time of the WWF. They were a couple of dirty boys who were made for dirty, rundown arenas and late-night cable TV shows. Even when they started piling up ECW tag team titles and proclaiming

themselves the best tag team in the world, I kept saying to myself, "Too bad they'll never have the chance to prove it."

After all, this was the team that incited a beer bath and nearly a riot at ECW Arena this past summer by daring fans to throw cans of beer and soda into the ring. I just couldn't imagine Vince McMahon Jr. seeing that or hearing about that and saying, "I want those guys."

(Continued on page 54)



For wrestling fans unfamiliar with The Dudley Boyz, one of their "commandments" is this: Thou shalt not mess with The Dudley Boyz. Former manager Joel Gertner learned that the hard way.

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Behind the Dressing Room Door

By Dave Rosenbaum

MARIA CALLAS SANG here. So did Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo, Franco Corelli, and Jessye Norman. There isn't a place in the city more associated with New York high society than the Metropolitan Opera House, but on Thursday night, September 9, 1999, the place got a little randy, if you'll excuse my Austin Powers. The 1999 MTV Video Music Awards were held at the Met that night, which already should have been enough to have Rudolph Bing rolling in his grave. But also there were WWF stars Steve Austin, Debra, X-Pac, and Road Dogg.

And if that wasn't enough, Austin presented an award. That's right, "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin was on stage at the Metropolitan Opera House.

All this means one of two things: Either high society has taken a tumble, or high society has decided to relax and have fun.

Actually, it meant one thing above all others: Radio City Music Hall, where the MTV Awards usually take place, was being renovated and was unavailable this year. So the folks at MTV approached the folks at the Met, fully expecting to be rebuffed, and were, to their great surprise, greeted with open arms.

I wonder if they told them about the wrestlers.

Or about the fans.

"The WWF would like you to show up outside the Metropolitan Opera House and cheer for your favorite superstar," read the memo at WWF.com.

There were thousands, maybe tens of thousands, of fans lined up outside Lincoln Center to watch the celebrities arrive for the show, and I'd guarantee at least half of them were there to see the wrestlers. When Austin and Debra

showed up, the crowd went nuts. Same reaction for Road Dogg and X-Pac. Outside the Met, posters advertised upcoming Metropolitan Opera productions, such as *La Traviata*, *Tristan Und Isolde*, and the opening night gala. Those posters were not meant for these fans.

"This is one of the classiest places on earth, and Debra is the classiest lady in the WWF," said Mike Ruble, a wrestling fan who drove in from upstate New York to see the wrestlers. "Debra belongs in a place like this. She defines class. And just look at her! Look at those puppies!"

Until this night, I didn't know they allowed puppies inside the Met. Guess I was wrong.

The whole night was very ... well, bizarre. Pop music stars inside the Met is just a very

(Continued on page 55)



Wrestling personalities such as Steve Austin and Debra belong here, in a baseball park like the Vet (with Phillies manager Terry Francona), not at the Metropolitan Opera House for the MTV Video Music Awards, according to Dave Rosenbaum. Apparently, the rock 'n' wrestling connection is still alive.

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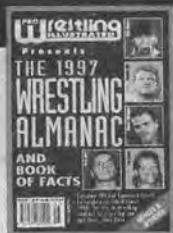
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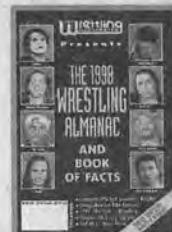
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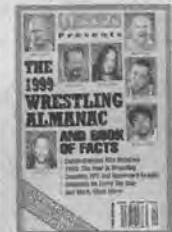
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the Insider

by Brandi Mankiewicz

(The opinions expressed in this column are those of Brandi Mankiewicz alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.)

NO MATTER HOW you look at it, "Triple-H" was screwed. I don't care what happened at the *Raw* broadcast that followed his SummerSlam screwing, Hunter Hearst Helmsley spent 24 hours in turmoil. That was 24 hours too much considering all he had had to endure in the weeks leading up to his loss to Mankind and Steve Austin at the August pay-per-view.

His victory over The Rock at

Fully Loaded—in which he secured the number-one contender spot and the title shot at SummerSlam—was fair and square. There should have been no—repeat, *no*—debate to the contrary.

All the gyrations the WWF went through in an attempt to strip "Triple-H" of his top spot were obscene. How many wrestlers did he have to face to prove himself? Every time he passed a test, he was given another. He loses his spot to Chyna, who loses it to Mankind, an unranked wrestler, who should have lost it to Helmsley.

Helmsley spewed his indignant venom leading up to SummerSlam.

This match should have been just him and Austin battling over the WWF strap. No three-way. No Mankind. The result? Like many before him, "Triple-H" got screwed. If it had just been him and Austin, there's no doubt in my mind that his destiny would have been fulfilled at SummerSlam.

His frustration boiled over the night after the pay-per-view. His first target was Jim Ross, a man who has openly and emphatically stated his partiality to his good buddies Austin and Mankind. Whenever they are wronged, Ross shouts and swears in frustration. When Helmsley was living through his nightmare week after week, Ross never came to his defense. Never did Ross state that Helmsley had earned his top spot. No, no, no. "Triple-H," you see, is not one of his buddies.

"Triple-H" did what he had to do. He had played by the rules and the regulations set before him. What did it get him? No title at the second biggest WWF pay-per-view of the year. So he threw the rule-book out the window and attacked the first man who stood in his way.

It happened to be Ross.

Even I don't usually condone a wrestler attacking a non-wrestler, but Ross was asking for it. There was Helmsley, at his breaking point after the events of the previous night, stating his case while Ross smirked. Helmsley knew what he had to do. He wanted to teach Ross a lesson in manners and Mankind a lesson in being a fighting champion.

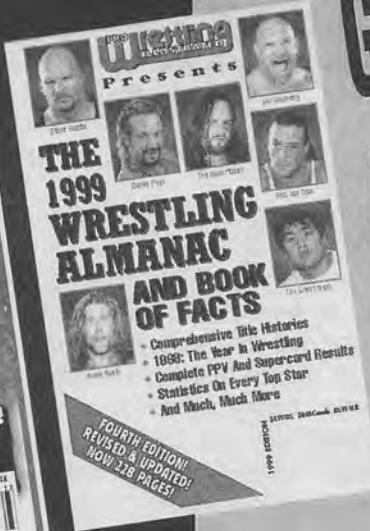
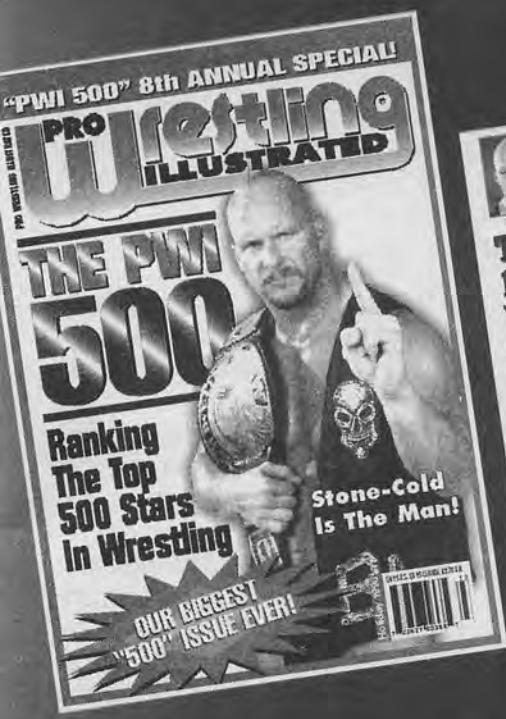
He taught both lessons masterfully. Ross was carted off in an ambulance, while Mankind was forced to defend his title.

And before you lambaste Helmsley for his attack on "good ol' J.R.,"

(Continued on page 56)



After "Triple-H" thrashed The Rock in a strap match at Fully Loaded, he earned the right to wrestle for the WWF World title at SummerSlam. In subsequent weeks, however, he was forced to earn his title shot over and over again. No wonder he's been so angry lately!



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ON Assignment

By Liz Hunter

HAVE ATTENDED more post-match parties for newly crowned world champions over the last 20 years than I care to remember. I hobnobbed with Ric Flair, Hulk Hogan, Dusty Rhodes, and others after they captured a belt or two, but nothing will ever match my post-SummerSlam '99 night with Mankind.

I was standing near one of the

exits of the Target Center in Minneapolis, hoping to get a quick quote from the new WWF champion. After all, he had just completed one of the most successful ring returns in recent history. He had just pinned Steve Austin for the WWF World title in a triple threat match that included Hunter Hearst Helmsley and, of course, special referee Jesse "The Body" Ventura.

Weeks before this major accomplishment, Mankind was a non-factor in the WWF title picture, as he was recuperating from major knee surgery. One *Raw* appearance later, he was back in the hunt. At SummerSlam, he went in for the kill.

Mankind walked through the throng of reporters and well-wishers on his way to his car when he caught sight of me out of the corner of his eye. "Lizzie, baby," he said in a *Dude Love*-like tone. "What do you say you and me paint this town red?"

I obliged his request. Others were joining us as well. Mankind would lead the caravan with his vehicle. We walked past the limos, BMWs, and other expensive automobiles to a rusted Volkswagen Beetle (the old style, not the new one). Always the gentleman, Mankind opened the creaky door for me. I considered it a minor miracle that it didn't fall off its hinges right there and then.

He got in, and I immediately inquired as to his taste in rental cars. "Not a rental, Liz," responded Mankind. "I got a buddy around here who tells me that this car gives good luck to anyone who drives it. Well, my buddy sure knows of what he speaks."

On our way to our destination, I asked him how he was feeling following what many considered to be a huge upset.

"After a match like that, I always feel kinda numb physically and mentally. Everything has to sink in," he said over the din of an engine with a muffler that was failing fast. "The pain and the exhilaration haven't quite kicked in yet, but I know they will. They always do."

(Continued on page 57)



Virtually no one expected it to happen, but, yes, Mankind did have his hand raised by guest referee Jesse Ventura at the end of the main event of SummerSlam. His celebration of his WWF World title win that night turned out to be a quiet one.

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INSIDE WRESTLING

CAPSULE PROFILE

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SID VICIOUS

THROUGHOUT HIS 12-year career, Sid Vicious has been quite the enigma. Despite his two reigns as WWF World heavyweight champion, many have labeled Vicious an underachiever—a big man who has let his own inner turmoil and outside interests keep him from achieving greatness in a sport that he should have dominated from day one. Yet, when you put Vicious' career under the microscope, it's clear that wherever he goes, he makes an impact. If Sid has wrestled in your promotion, you definitely know it. He probably tried to destroy it ... Met Randy Savage while attending football camp near his home of West Memphis, Arkansas ... Savage turned the 6'8", 318-pound behemoth on to wrestling ("I could be playing pro ball right now") ... Gained his first national recognition as Lord Humongous in the CWF, where he beat Dan Davis for the Southeast title on Christmas Day 1987 ... Joined the NWA in 1989

and teamed with Dan Spivey to form The Skyscrapers ... Billed as "The Road Warriors of the 1990s," the team never won a title ("We could have held the NWA hostage") ... Was a member of The Four Horsemen for a short time, but eventually left the group

... Joined the WWF in 1991 as Sid Justice ... Unable to wrest the World title from Hulk Hogan, he disappeared from the WWF ("Hogan could rest easy for a while again") ... Resurfaced in WCW in 1993, where he was managed by Col. Rob Parker ...

October '93 ... Remained hidden from the spotlight and wrestled mainly on independent cards until 1995, when he re-emerged in the WWF as Shawn Michaels' bodyguard ("He knows I carried him") ... Won his first WWF World title on November 17, 1996, defeating

Michaels for the strap ... Lost it to Michaels two months later, but defeated Bret Hart for his second WWF championship in February '97 ... Left the WWF soon after losing it to The Undertaker at WrestleMania XIII ("I had my fill of beating people up there") ... Wrestled on NWA cards throughout '98, but stunned the wrestling world with his appearance at ECW's Guilty as Charged pay-per-view on January 10, 1999 ... Made short work of many of the wrestlers on ECW's talent roster in the ensuing few months, even destroying Lance Storm and Justin Credible at Hardcore Heaven '99 ("Heyman paid me to ruin his talent roster") ... Made his return to WCW at The Great American Bash '99 by the side of Savage ... Turned against Savage

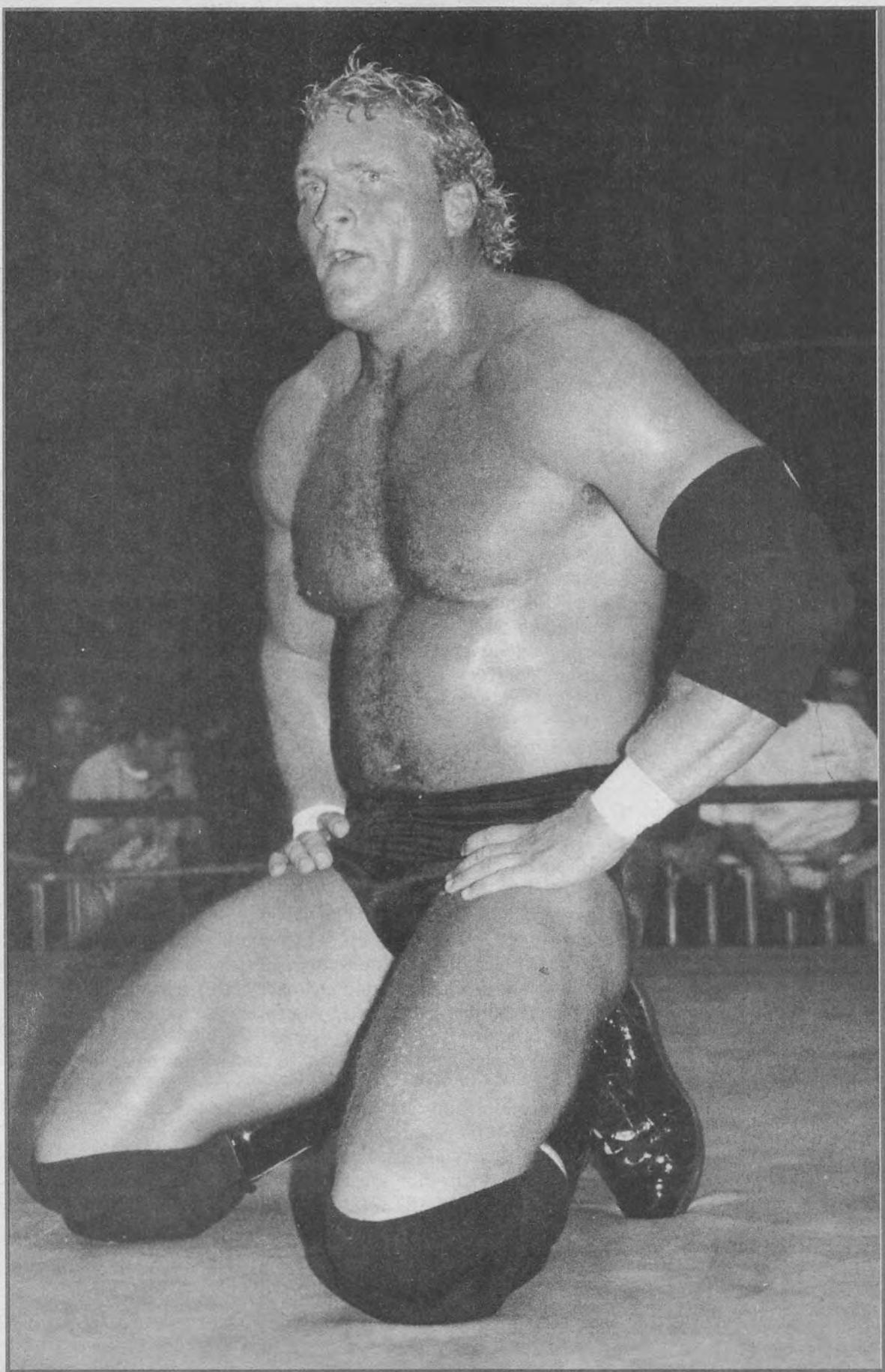


Sid Vicious stretches Sting. Since returning to WCW, Vicious has been a loose cannon, but he remains squarely focused on winning his first WCW World title and eclipsing the career accomplishments of Bill Goldberg.

Formed a tag team with Big Van Vader called The Masters of the Power Bomb ... The alliance didn't last long ... Was in line for a shot at Vader's World title at Starrcade '93, but was fired from the company after a bloody hotel room brawl with Arn Anderson in England in

and sided with Kevin Nash in his war with Hogan ... Beat Sting decisively at Road Wild ... Now calling himself "The Millennium Man" and trying to eliminate Bill Goldberg from the sport. ("Soon all the fans will be chanting my name!") □

SID VICIOUS



Whatever Happened To...? By Frank Krewda

REY URBANO

If Rey Urbano were wrestling today, he'd be a cruiserweight, but back in 1950, Urbano was coveted by wrestling promoters for his size—5'9", 205 pounds.

A standout offensive guard at San Francisco University, Urbano was lured to the mat by promoter Joe Malcawicz, but after one painful tryout, Urbano decided wrestling wasn't for him.

"I had to hold my head up with my hands just to eat dinner that night," recalls Urbano, who did eventually trade his shoulder pads for tights after Malcawicz sent him to Hawaii to train under Sandor Szabo.

"I wrestled about six times in six months," says Urbano, "and I had a guarantee of \$250 a week. I was being put up in the best hotels on the island."

Despite the perks, Urbano

grew bored with the light schedule. He was a hit with the fans, many of whom were Filipino like him, but craved exposure to a larger audience. So Urbano headed to New York. Unfortunately, the cult following he enjoyed in Hawaii didn't come with him, and his career sagged.

"To create heat, Vince McMahon Sr. suggested I adopt a Japanese persona," Urbano remembers. "My cousin lent me a robe, and Tokyo Tom was born."

At first, Urbano didn't like the character. Used to hearing cheers, Urbano was now hated wherever he went. Eventually, watching the fan reaction became "great fun" for Tom, but the fun ended one day in Hamilton, Ontario, in 1964, when a fan stabbed Urbano in his left side. Tokyo Tom suffered a 2½-inch-deep wound that cost him five months in the ring.

Undaunted, Urbano returned to collect several regional titles throughout Texas, but another setback struck in 1966. He was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Doctors successfully treated the tumor, but the experience shook Urbano. "I really thought I was going to die," he admits.

During his recovery, Urbano decided to pursue a degree in recreation and became a park director after graduation. But in 1972, he received a call from The Sheik, who was wrestling in the Detroit territory. Soon he was wrestling as The Great Kabuki (a more famous Great Kabuki came along later) and



feuding with Bobo Brazil and Dick the Bruiser.

After stops in Australia, Texas, and Florida, Urbano reduced his wrestling schedule to promote his football board game First And Ten. At first, the business venture was a success, but a sour deal in Europe eventually shut operations down. Urbano closed his career in Kentucky, wrestling for long-time friend Angelo Poffo, before hanging up the tights in 1987.

These days, Urbano, 75, enjoys working out and getting together with former colleagues at wrestling conventions, but these happy occasions are sometimes tainted with sadness.

"It seems every time we have a convention, one of the boys passes away soon after," Urbano laments. "First, it was Duke Kanemuka, then Ray Stevens."

Like many retired wrestlers, Urbano misses the travel and camaraderie of the road, but he's not too thrilled about how the sport has evolved. "In a three-hour show, you're lucky if you get 20 minutes of wrestling," he says. "It's all talking." □



Rey Urbano is best remembered for his stint as the vicious Tokyo Tom, a rulebreaker from Japan. Tokyo Tom may have been Japanese, but Urbano is Filipino.



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NEWS FROM THE

STURGIS, SD
BY TERRY LOWE



RANDY SAVAGE
VS.
DENNIS RODMAN



MINNEAPOLIS, MN
BY DOUG TRAMMEL



THE ROCK
VS.
BILLY GUNN



PHILADELPHIA, PA
BY DUTCH KREWDA



ROB VAN DAM
VS.
JERRY LYNN



Surprisingly, Rodman wasn't overmatched in this Road Wild brawl. The two men brawled all over the rally grounds and injured five referees and one photographer in the process. The most memorable part came when Savage threw Rodman into a portable toilet, then tipped it over. Even that wasn't enough to finish him off. The end didn't come for Rodman until Gorgeous George hit him with a low blow and Savage got the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Rey Mysterio Jr., Eddy Guerrero, & Billy Kidman beat The Insane Clown Posse & Vampiro ... Shane Douglas, Dean Malenko, & Perry Saturn beat Curt Hennig, Barry Windham, & Bobby Duncum Jr. ... Harlem Heat beat WCW tag team champs Bam Bam Bigelow & Kanyon for the belts ... Buff Bagwell beat Ernest Miller ... WCW U.S. champ Chris Benoit beat Dallas Page ... Bill Goldberg beat WCW TV champ Rick Steiner in a non-title bout ... Sid Vicious beat Sting ... WCW World champ Hulk Hogan beat Kevin Nash in a retirement match.

Rock had more than enough motivation to win this SummerSlam match, as Gunn vowed to make him kiss the backside of a large woman he brought with him to the ring if Rock lost. Rock nearly got the win after executing a DDT, but Gunn kicked out of his pin attempt, then took over. He even had the woman enter the ring when he thought he was about to win. That's when Rock put him away with a Rock bottom and a people's elbow.

OTHER BOUTS: Jeff Jarrett beat WWF European/Intercontinental champ D-Lo Brown to win both titles ... The Acolytes won a tag team turmoil match, last eliminating Crash & Bob Holly ... Al Snow beat WWF hardcore champ Big Bossman for the title ... WWF women's champ Ivory beat Tori ... Ken Shamrock beat Steve Blackman in a "Lion's Den" match ... Test beat Shane McMahon in a streetfight ... Mankind beat Hunter Hearst Helmsley and WWF World champ Steve Austin in a triple threat match for the title.

Put Van Dam and Lynn in the ring and you're almost guaranteed a great match, and that's what ECW Arena fans got here. Despite competing with injured ribs, Lynn came close to winning RVD's TV title many times. He got a two-count after executing a cradle piledriver, after hitting a DDT, after using a superplex, and after Van Dam missed with a frog splash. But like so many before him, Lynn went down to defeat after RVD hit him with a Van Daminator.

OTHER BOUTS: Danny Doring, Amish Roadkill, & Angelica beat Nova, Chris Chetti, & Jazz ... Simon Diamond beat Vito Lograsso ... Johnny Smith beat Little Guido ... Spike Dudley pinned P.N. News ... Super Crazy defeated Yoshihiro Tajiri ... Axl Rotten beat Mahoney ... Uganda beat Tom Marquez ... ECW TV champ Rob Van Dam wrestled to a no-contest with Lance Storm ... ECW World tag team champs Tommy Dreamer & Raven beat Rhino & Jack Victory.

WRESTLING CAPITALS

HAMBURG, PA
BY JEFF AMDUR



GLEN OSBOURNE
VS.
MICHAEL MODEST



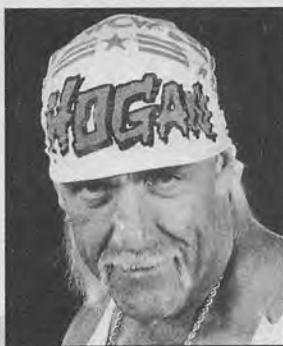
ROSTRAYER, PA
BY TIMOTHY A. WALKER



CHRIS JERICHO
VS.
TERRY TAYLOR



SAN FRANCISCO, CA
BY CAROL FLANNERY



HULK HOGAN
VS.
BRET HART



The legendary Fred Blassie was in Osbourne's corner for this, the final bout in the PCW title tournament. Modest, meanwhile, had El Hijo del Muerte in his corner. Modest did his best to work over the powerful Osbourne's injured knee, but Muerte wanted to see the match end quickly, so he grabbed a chair and was about to interfere when Blassie whacked him with his cane. Osbourne then power-bombed and pinned a distracted Modest to win the title.

OTHER BOUTS: *In a tournament to declare a new heavyweight champion, quarterfinals:* Michael Modest defeated Ty Street ... Flash Flanagan defeated Chris Krueger ... Glen Osbourne pinned Mr. Ooh La La ... Kodiak Bear beat Scott Furie ... *Semifinals:* Modest defeated Flanagan ... Osbourne pinned Kodiak Bear ... *In non-tournament matches:* Jason Lee pinned Trailer Park Trash ... Cheetah Master pinned The Persian Prince ... Jimi V pinned Reckless Youth ... Vincent Goodnight beat Sweet Mr. E.

Jericho got a great reaction when he came out on the special "Curtis Comes Home" card on which cancer-stricken referee Mark Curtis was honored. Taylor, however, greeted him rather rudely. He attempted to weaken Jericho's arm during most of the bout and nearly beat him with a flying forearm. Eventually, though, Jericho applied the lion tamer and won by submission. Afterward, Taylor offered his hand to Jericho, but when Jericho shook it, Taylor kicked him in the groin and said, "Welcome to the WWF."

OTHER BOUTS: Julio Sanchez pinned Frank Parker ... Dominic DeNucci pinned Lord Zoltan ... Dick Flanagan beat Preston Steele ... Eddy Guerrero beat Billy Kidman and Shark Boy in a triangle match ... Public Enemy defeated Beau James & Roger Anderson ... Cody Michaels beat Hugh Morris ... Al Snow wrestled D-Lo Brown to a no-contest ... Chris Benoit, Dean Malenko, & Shane Douglas beat Tim Horner, Tracey Smothers, & Chris Candido.

Fans at the Cow Palace were stunned when Hart showed up unexpectedly and announced he had challenged Hogan to a WCW title match that night. And they seemed happy to see both men abide by the rules. Hart kept Hogan on the mat early and dominated, but Hogan got the crowd excited as he made his comeback. After connecting with a big foot, though, he missed with a legdrop, and the "Hitman" applied a sharpshooter. Just as Hogan broke the hold, Sid Vicious and Rick Steiner hit the ring. The referee then declared the bout a no-contest.

OTHER BOUTS: Ernest Miller beat Chris Adams ... Brian Knobs & The Barbarian defeated Disorderly Conduct ... Eddy Guerrero, Chavo Guerrero Jr., & Rey Misterio Jr. beat Kendall & Barry Windham & Bobby Duncum Jr. ... Buff Bagwell beat David Flair ... Sid Vicious beat Sting by disqualification ... Sting beat Sid Vicious ... Bill Goldberg beat WCW TV champ Rick Steiner in a non-title match.



Matt Brock's Plain Speaking

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

"Take your pick," Stu Saks told me. "Re-no, Los Angeles, or San Francisco. I hear Bret Hart's coming back, and you need to be there." Saks likes to throw his weight around, but I had to admit that he was right: If Bret Hart was returning to the ring for the first time since his brother died, I had to be there. Picked Los Angeles. Decent airport. Not too far from the Great Western Forum. Figured I could be in and out of town in less than 24 hours, which is exactly what I did after

watching Hart wrestle to a no-contest with Hulk Hogan. On one hand, you can say that Hart's showing a lot of courage by climbing back into the ring, but on the other hand, you have to realize that Hart's a wrestler, and if he doesn't wrestle, what else is he going to do? Then again, you have to wonder whether Hart's heart is really in it this time. Looked into his eyes and saw nothing but sadness, and although he more than held his own against Hogan, I kept wondering whether this time he's merely back for one last hurrah.

Being back in this neighborhood brings back memories of Sunnyside Gardens and

Friday night wrestling cards in a smoky little hellhole. The thing about wrestling in the 1950s is that not only did the wrestlers have character, but the buildings did, too. None of those "No Smoking" signs hanging all over the place, and if there were, every man in the building would have either ignored them or ripped them down. Nowadays, if you want to hold a wrestling card in Queens, you go to places like the Elks Lodge, which is where I ended up to watch Raven make his surprise return to ECW. Seems as if Eric Bischoff, the president of WCW, got tired of hearing complaints from his wrestlers, so he offered a release from the federation to anyone who wanted

ELMHURST, NY



RAVEN

one. Apparently, Raven was the only wrestler in the room with any guts, because he got right up, walked out of the meeting, and walked out of WCW. Wonder how many other wrestlers would have done the same thing if there weren't so many numbers in their paychecks. One thing money's always been able to do: buy a man's soul. Not Raven. Three nights later, he showed up at the Elks Lodge and saved Tommy Dreamer, a man he used to hate (and probably still does), from a beating by The Dudley Boyz. Before anybody knew it, Raven and Dreamer were the new ECW World tag team champions, and Raven was looking like a man who wasn't worried about the size of his paycheck. "It's good to be home," Raven told me. "The thing is, here I can be what I've always wanted to be, which is a wrestler and nothing more. I don't have to worry about politics or people stabbing me in the back." Then I asked Raven about Bischoff and he shot me a look as if he wanted to stab *me* in the back.

This reporter knows when to stop with a line of questioning. The question is this: If Raven wanted to leave WCW, how many other wrestlers felt the same way but just didn't have the guts to do it? If there are a lot of them, and their hearts aren't into wrestling for WCW, then that federation has bigger problems than we think.

Never much liked Chris Jericho. Can't say I've ever gone for the pretty boy types who talk too much, then are afraid to try to back it up in the ring. Jericho's a damn good wres-



CHRIS JERICHO

tler, but if you put him in the ring against Steve Austin or Sting, he's going to get squashed in no time at all if he doesn't take things more seriously. Jericho left WCW and signed with the WWF, thinking he had to save the federation from something or other, although it's hard to say exactly what something or other is, considering the WWF's bottom line has never been better. The only thing that seems sure is that Jericho's messing

with the wrong people, Ken Shamrock and The Rock. Both of them could tie him up into knots if they had the chance, and it's only a matter of time until they get the chance. Watched the WWF card here at the First Union Center and was a little disturbed, just like the rest of the crowd, when Jericho interfered in the main event between World champion Hunter Hearst Helmsley and The Rock, causing The Rock to lose. Jericho apparently thinks that everybody wants to see him everywhere, when the truth is that nobody wants to see him in the middle of a main event like that. Attitude and cockiness can be a good thing, but not in this case. Jericho's doing nothing but asking to have his head handed to him.

Got a phone call from Dave Rosenbaum the other day. Told me he was coming to New York to see the MTV Video Music Awards at the Metropolitan Opera House, of all places, and that I should drop by. Asked him what wrestling had to do with MTV, and he told me that Steve Austin, Debra, X-Pac, and Road Dogg would be there. Told him maybe I'd be there, maybe I wouldn't, but then the day rolled around and I happened to be walking right past the subway station that would take me right to Lincoln Center, so I walked downstairs and got on a train. Got off at the Lincoln Center station, walked upstairs, saw the crowd, walked around the perimeter for a few minutes, and realized I was getting very old. Rosenbaum was there—I saw him interviewing some broad with cleavage out to next year—but he didn't see me, thank goodness. Is this what wrestling has come to? Whatever happened to the smoke-filled arenas and little old ladies? Sometimes I wonder if wrestling has passed Matt Brock right by. □

PHILADELPHIA, PA

NEW YORK, NY



STINGER
“MY 10
TOUGHEST
OPPONENTS”

TWO YEARS AFTER making his wrestling debut (1985), Sting entered the NWA (now WCW), and he has never looked back. While wrestlers have come and gone to other promotions, Sting has remained, earning himself the unofficial title of WCW's "franchise." But with that title have come challenges from countless wrestlers, some of whom have gone from being close friends to hated enemies, wanting to strip that designation away from Sting along with a title or two.

INSIDE WRESTLING recently asked Sting to list his 10 toughest opponents. These are the elite in the eyes of the "Stinger," the men who have given him his most anxious moments when it came to matches, feuds, title reigns, and his career.

RIC FLAIR

"I guess I've always had Flair in my sights, and vice versa," Sting said. "Even when he [went to the WWF] for a couple of years, he was never completely out of my mind. He has both made my career and almost ended it on a number of occasions. So tough mentally."

Sting and Flair have been battling off and on since



Ric Flair as an opponent has been a constant threat over the course of the "Stinger's" career. Sting is impressed by the "Nature Boy's" mental toughness.

Sting arrived in WCW. It was his match with Flair at the first Clash of the Champions that made Sting a superstar. It was his match with Flair at The Great American Bash in 1990 in which Sting won his first NWA/WCW World title. It was Flair, along with the Horsemen, who nearly ended Sting's career months before that encounter. Recently, Sting even wrested the WCW presidency away from Flair. If there has been one constant in wrestling over the past dozen years, it has been Sting battling the "Nature Boy."

HULK HOGAN

"I always dreamed about Hulk Hogan wrestling in WCW. I dreamed about our classic encounters and maybe teaming up with him. I never imagined our relationship taking the turn it did when he joined the NWO."

No man affected Sting's psyche more than Hogan. Other men have physically injured him, but Hogan's



Sting dreamed of facing off against Hulk Hogan long before he arrived in WCW, but he never imagined it would happen the way it did.

psychological games actually drove Sting away from the ring for 15 months. When Hogan first arrived in WCW in the red and yellow, a bout between the two—a dream match if you will—seemed inevitable. When Hogan turned bad and the stakes were raised. Sting was fighting not just for himself, but for control of WCW.

LEX LUGER

"I try to think if Lex has been a friend more than an enemy, or is it the other way around? I honestly can't tell you if being his friend is easier than being his enemy. Trying to beat a man with the strength of a Lex Luger is tough enough, but there's always that trust factor to consider with him."

When trying to think of all the times that Lex Luger has turned against Sting, one could easily lose count. Sting would rather forget about those times as well. His matches with Luger have been both physi-

cally and emotionally draining. Just when Sting thought he could trust his friend, he would be a victim of another attack. Yet Sting has always taken back the "Total Package" and given him his total trust. That's a challenge in and of itself.



Friend or foe? Sting isn't sure which is tougher where Lex Luger is concerned. He always has to wonder if he can trust the man.

RICK RUDE

"We just never hit it off. The minute he came to WCW in 1991, he wanted me and my U.S. title. I represented everything Rude despised about WCW, and he was obsessed with destroying me."

Rude was the first man to jump from the WWF to the WCW and immediately targeted Sting. The two knew so little about each other, yet they became easy enemies. Rude stripped Sting of his U.S. title early in "The Ravishing One's" WCW tenure. His blind hatred may still be a mystery to Sting. That never stopped the "Stinger" from fighting back, but Rude persisted in his desire to become WCW's new "franchise" player. He nearly succeeded.

BILL GOLDBERG

"If I never did anything in my career, at least I know that my name would still be in the wrestling books. After all, I am part of that famous undefeated streak. It's easy to underestimate a rookie. That is, until you feel that spear and jackhammer."

Sting felt he could be the one to stop the Goldberg streak. After all, he had years of experience on the rookie competitor. Their first encounter was Goldberg's biggest challenge, and it turned out to be one of Sting's as well. He had defeated ring legends and muscular stars. Why wouldn't he beat Goldberg? He never really got a chance to answer that question. In that first encounter, Goldberg destroyed Sting, a defeat that still gnaws away at the former champion.



The "Stinger's" first match with Goldberg went down in wrestling history... as part of Goldberg's amazing winning streak.

THE GREAT MUTA

"This was another guy who I never said a word about until I finally met him. Yet he had this natural hatred for me back about 10 years ago. He wanted to prove a point to WCW and the American wrestling fans by beating me."

A year after Sting's Clash classic with Flair, he was still riding a wave of success and popularity. The



The Great Muta was silent but sadistic as he handed the "Stinger" some of his toughest bouts ever.

WCW TV title came into his grasp easily, and he was impressive in subsequent title reigns. A World title run had to be in the future, but Muta would slow Sting's progress. He didn't just beat Sting for the TV title; he took some of the luster away from WCW's "franchise" player.

NIKITA KOLOFF

"I never saw myself being friends with Nikita after all that happened between us. He was so full of hatred for me and for the United States. For some reason, things just clicked with us. But when our feud resumed, I wasn't shocked in the least."

Koloff was a wild beast that Sting had to constantly try to tame in the ring. He was a muscular Russian villain who espoused his beliefs with fists flying. The two battled in nearly every type of match imaginable, including Koloff's specialty, a Russian chain match, at the 1991 Great American Bash. It was a rare pay-per-view loss for the "Stinger," as well as a setback in his quest to contend for the World title again.

BIG VAN VADER

"I still have nightmares about Vader. He was just so imposing and so intimidating. I never like to say that I fear any man, but Vader made me nervous sometimes. Don't get me wrong: I always stood face-to-face with him, but I think I still feel his power to this day."

When Sting won his second World title from Lex Luger, many forecasted a long title reign. That was before Vader became a top contender. In their first championship encounter, at the 1992 Great American Bash, Vader dominated Sting and pulled out a shocking victory. He was able to regain the title from Vader in 1993, but lost it back to him three days later.

BARRY WINDHAM

"To this day, I don't think I've ever gotten over Barry joining the Horsemen and turning against Lex and myself. It seemed so strange at first to face him in the ring."

Sting had taken his sights off Flair in 1988 to go after Windham and his U.S. title. If the new Horseman was not formidable enough, Sting always



Though he had the strength to take on the massive Big Van Vader, Sting admits he feels the effects of his war with the big man to this very day.

had to concern himself with his teammates interfering in their bouts. He never won the belt from Windham, and their friendship was irreparably damaged.

EDDIE GILBERT

"I really didn't know what I wanted when Eddie came around. He took me under his wing and allowed me to really develop as a wrestler. When things fell apart, I wondered if I could beat a guy who taught me so much."

It was Sting's first high-profile feud and probably his most difficult. It was teacher vs. student. Gilbert guided Sting's career and gave him much-needed confidence. When Sting broke away and started feuding with "Hot Stuff," he was already at a disadvantage. Their feud led to a six-man bout in which Sting made his NWA debut, but the idea of facing a man who knew so much about him was unnerving. □



We encouraged Billy Gunn and Road Dogg to try their hand at singles wrestling. Now the wrestlers no longer speak ... and the NAO are DOA

A DOGG-GUNN SHAME:

THE NEW AGE OUTLAWS COULD HAVE BEEN THE BEST EVER!

By Bryan Ethier

SUCCESS IS THE only sure path to failure. At 10:08 p.m. on a warm August Monday, Billy Gunn told us all to kiss his arrogant back-side. He added to the insult by taking an unconscious Rock, pulling his head behind his (Gunn's) buttocks, and forcing The Rock to smooch Gunn's posterior.

Once a great tag team (left), Billy Gunn and Jesse James are now feuding. It's a shame they hate each other so much ... and a real detriment to the WWF tag team scene.

It was one of the most humiliating incidents in Rock's career, but it punctuated Billy Gunn's attitude toward the rest of the WWF.

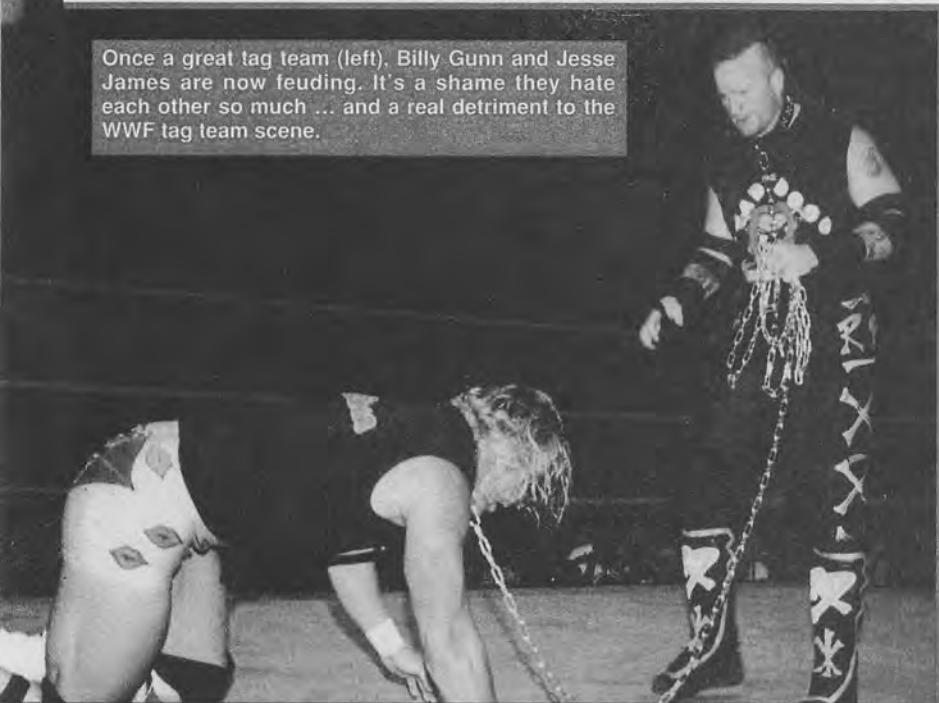
The solo Outlaw takes no prisoners, wants no allies, and is bent on being Billy the Hardheaded Kid of Y2K.

"What a shame to see what became of The New Age Outlaws," said Jim Ross. "Remember, both Jesse James and Billy Gunn revived their foundering careers when they formed the Outlaws. They were slick, popular,

and were able to suppress their individual weaknesses with great teamwork. Now the team is done. I would like to have seen how dominant they could have been if they stuck together for five or 10 years."

Ross is right, however. The team is done, and mainly because Billy Gunn began to trip over his inflated ego. As Road Dogg learned, winning is a spoiled teacher who demands greater and greater successes. Thus, as Gunn became more successful in a tandem, he needed to experience success on his own.

Gunn had a partner urging his split from Dogg, however: the fans. True, while the NAO's fanatics did not overtly beseech the tag team to split (though we did, in the May





James fires a fist at Gunn in one of their many dog-collar matches. They should be wrestling with each other, not against each other. We should never have implored them to split up!

1999 issue of INSIDE WRESTLING), what they did was show their preference to an individual wrestler based on the style of match fought. When the NAO fought rougher hardcore types, the fans seemed to gravitate more toward Road Dogg, whose endless stamina and natural athleticism earned him more time in such matches. When finesse-oriented competitors faced off against NAO, Gunn saw the better part of the action. Dogg has always been the clown, the performer, the slicker of the pair who could dance and trick his way to wins against the less-aggressive nemesis.

What ensued from these matches was a natural outflow of the wrestler's skills. Gunn went solo, then captured the hardcore title and the 1999 King of the Ring championship. Road Dogg won the Intercontinental title.

Much to the chagrin of their fans, Gunn and Dogg have met in the ring numerous times, with dog-collar matches the highlight of their encounters. Dogg has triumphed in most of them, thanks to his superior speed and toughness, while Gunn has dominated their series of standard matches. Ultimately, however, neither man has won, because in the eyes of the WWF audience, they will always be The New Age Outlaws.

Even some of their enemies want them back together.

"The Rock does not agree with the crap that Billy Gunn is cooking," said The Rock. "He is the lowest form of pond scum this side of Brazil. But nothing gave The Rock more pleasure than to be able to simultaneously kick his and his jabroni buddy's

[butts]. Now The Rock has to work twice as hard and look under three times as many rocks to find the compost they live in."

They say you don't see a window unless it's dirty. This saying may be used to describe the state of the WWF's tag team pool. Sure, there are some good partnerships: The Hardy Boyz, Kane and X-Pac, The Acolytes, all former champs. But did you ever really notice them? Did you root like a crazy kid for Faarooq?

But when Road Dogg took the microphone and began to bellow in his Top 40 voice: "Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, children of all ages ..." you loved it because you instantly knew who was about to wreak havoc in the ring.

"When I was a kid growing up in San Antonio I always went crazy whenever Chief Jay Strongbow teamed up with Tony Garea," recalled WWF Commissioner Shawn Michaels. "The New Age Outlaws created that same sense of excitement and hysteria. Any organization can use someone like them."

They were a marketing executive's dream, a team around whom a company could be built. Pizzazz sells, if you hadn't noticed, and the WWF today is more style than substance. The New Age Outlaws personified the elements that have made the World Wrestling Federation a huge success:



The New Age Outlaws could have been one of the best teams ever. Have their chances for reuniting been destroyed? All signs suggest that.

Gunn shows the tenacity and viciousness that enabled him to win the WWF hardcore title when the Outlaws split. He thinks his career has taken off since he quit teaming with James.



They were pirates forever sailing through enemy seas. They believed (for a while) in partnership, and you could always expect one to rescue the other in times of distress.

"Their teamwork made them very difficult to face," said Al Snow, who has had his share of battles with both former NAO members. "I remember one time I had Gunn down; I looked around and Dogg was nowhere in sight. Suddenly, I heard The Head scream, 'Watch out!' Next thing I knew, Road Dogg was rolling me up into a small package. Their

timing was just unbelievable."

Yes, the fans agree. The timing of Gunn and Road Dogg was exceptional, except when the time came to call it a partnership.

"I still feel cheated," said a glum 17-year-old Nicole Pearson at the conclusion of a WWF card. "Things just aren't as exciting these days. The Outlaws used to excite everyone else, so all the matches were great. Now Billy Gunn makes me sick. And Road Dogg? Well, he's cool, but it's nothing like it used to be."

Despite their recent solo success, Dogg and Gunn still hear rumors of an impending reformation of NAO.

"Why should I waste my time with that lowlife?" said Gunn. "He was the reason The New Age Outlaws split. If I am going to do all the work, I should make all the money, no?"

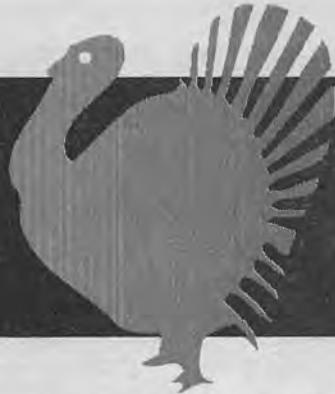
Road Dogg's response: "History will show who drove The New Age Outlaws."

Fans, however, don't seem to care about history. Nor do they care that these ex-friends are incommunicado. They just want to see Gunn pose in the ring as Dogg shakes down the arena walls with what may be the most famous introduction of all-time.

Looks like we might be waiting a long, long time to see that again. □



There are many fans still holding out hope that the Outlaws will soon reunite, but it's hard to believe there's a good chance of that happening given the recent violent matches between James and Gunn.



PRESENTING THE 1999

THE "TURNBUCKLE TURKEY Awards" have gone from being a lighthearted parody of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*'s annual Achievement Awards to an institution of their own. Our "Turkeys", first featured in *Wrestling Superstars* four years ago, have become a tradition in the Holiday issue of INSIDE WRESTLING.

The "Turnbuckle Turkey Awards" are no longer a joke. Indeed, a good number of superstar wrestlers and high-powered executives have contacted our offices in previous years, furious at their inclusion in our roll call of shame.

RENA MERO: THE PRICE WAS RIGHT!

She filed a \$110-million lawsuit against the WWF, charging the federation with sexual harassment and breach of contract. In addition to the figure specifically mentioned, she also sought profits for future merchandising and the right to retain the name "Sable" after she left the WWF.

Mero may have been asked to do some tawdry things, and the backstage environment might have been less than wholesome, but was the humiliation worth \$110-million? She was an unknown commodity before the WWF hype machine went into full gear and helped make her a star. Instead of devising a graceful exit strategy from the WWF, she filed her lawsuit soon after the federation became entangled with legal proceedings following the death of Owen Hart.

Obviously, Mero and her lawyers decided to hit the WWF when it was vulnerable. At the height of the Hart controversy, Mero aired the dirty laundry of her suit in many forums, including *TV Guide*, *Larry King Live*, *Entertainment Tonight*, and *Inside Edition*.

More than that, they didn't like being called turkeys.

To us, a turkey is not a lost artifact of '70s slang. It refers to a person who does something beyond villainous. Their misdeeds must be tapered with a bit of stupidity or ignorance, making their grand schemes ill-conceived as well as poorly executed.

Greed, hypocrisy, and arrogance are hallmarks of Turnbuckle Turkeys. Forget the cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. You'll have your fill after a serving of these birds.



Rena Mero, formerly Sable (left), used to primp for WWF cameras when she wasn't defending her women's title against foes such as Tori (below). Mero used the WWF to gain mainstream exposure, but may have branded herself a troublemaker when she filed a \$110-million lawsuit against her former company.



Will we see much of Mero in the future? Probably not. At least not in a wrestling ring. The WWF gave Mero an undisclosed sum, but refused to give her the rights to the "Sable" name. The judge issued a gag order for both sides, sealing the details of the settlement from public record.

Mero insists she will pursue an acting career and is working on a film due for release in the fall of 2000. Considering the difficulty

she created for the WWF, where she earned several hundred thousand dollars per year, would a motion picture company want to go near her? We'll see.

TURNBUCKLE TURKEY AWARDS!

JESSE VENTURA: WRESTLER FOR A PAYDAY!

Ventura tried to distance himself from his wrestling career during the Minnesota gubernatorial race in 1998, stating that it was only one of many, many, many jobs he had during his life. He talked about being a Navy SEAL



Since Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura is on the side of law and order, it wasn't so shocking to see him in stripes at SummerSlam (top), where he kept Shane McMahon in line (left). It was deplorable, though, that he took the job considering he tried to distance himself from wrestling before he was elected.

Body," and telling the news media that he considered himself Jesse "The Mind" Ventura now.

If "The Mind" was so sharp, why did he agree to appear as a special referee at SummerSlam '99 ... and why did he appear at an edition of *Raw* in Chicago when he insisted he wouldn't

leave the state of Minnesota to promote the event?

This time, when Wolf Blitzer of CNN's *Late Edition* asked why a governor would want to "demean the office" by appearing on a wres-

most of the time, being an actor some of the time, and only talked about wrestling when the issue was pressed.

Jesse distanced himself further by renouncing his nickname, "The



tling pay-per-view, Ventura responded that it was logical for him to return to wrestling for one night because that was a job of his prior to becoming governor.

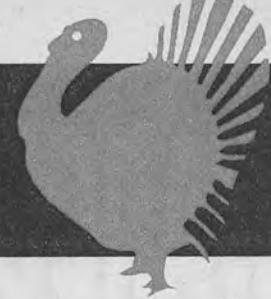
Oh, really? Is he "The Mind" or "The Body"? How about "The Hypocrite"? Ventura also gave the impression that two charities would receive most of the fee from his appearance. It is widely believed that Ventura would take home a much heftier payday than the \$100,000 he gave to charity.

Maybe we should be happy Ventura is proud of his wrestling heritage again ... until the next election.

RIC FLAIR: ABUSE OF POWER!

He berated Eric Bischoff for months, claiming the WCW president didn't respect tradition and insisted there needed to be a change. Well, there was a change when Flair defeated Bischoff for the WCW presidency the night after Starrcade '98. Flair made significant headway during the allotted 90-day period, eroding the NWO's influence and resurrecting the tag team division.

But Flair started to change near the end of the 90-day period when he realized that he'd be just another employee. Hollywood Hogan, with Bischoff's approval, made a deal with Flair for their upcoming match at Uncensored. If Hogan won, Flair would be forced to leave the sport forever. If Flair won, he would be awarded the WCW World title and the presidency for life.



PRESENTING THE 1999

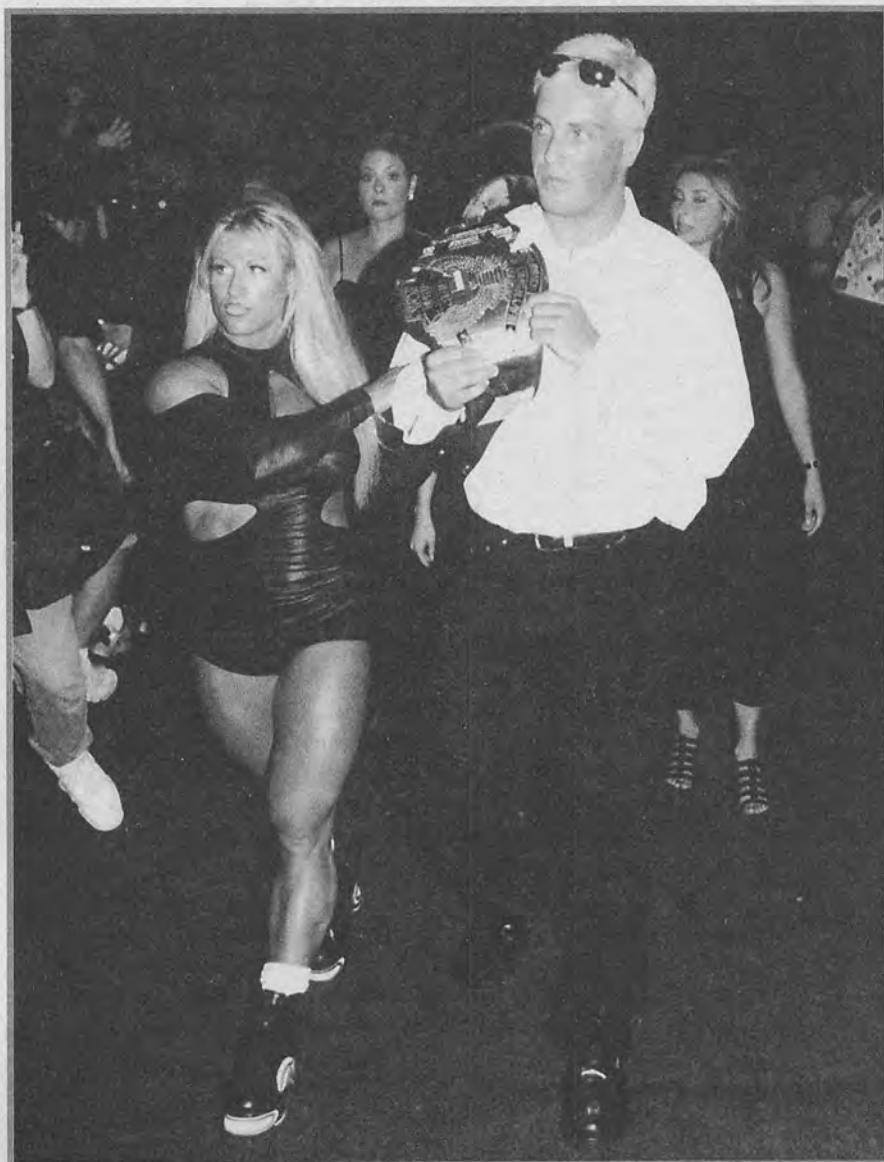
In the first-blood cage match, Hogan sliced Flair's head open early, but referee Charles Robinson refused to declare Hogan the victor. Hogan also had Flair pinned, but Robinson refused to make the count.

The "Nature Boy," with the help of Arn Anderson's trusty tire iron, won an unprecedented 14th world title. But he lost the re-

spect of his fans and peers.

Flair's greatest atrocity was stripping the U.S. title from Scott Steiner, who was sidelined with a shoulder injury, and handing the belt to his own son David. A tournament should have been held. Then we had to suffer through the pathetic incompetence of David Flair for several months.

It was nepotism at its worst.



Ric Flair (above) started his term as WCW president in fine fashion, but before long, he became as corrupt as any politician. His son David (left) prospered most from Flair's tenure, as Ric handed him the U.S. title.

RANDY SAVAGE: HE'S NO GENTLEMAN!

Savage must get some kind of sick thrill from making women feel inferior. Ten years ago, he was admonishing Elizabeth, threatening to hit her with the back of his hand. We thought Savage had changed until he returned to WCW this year.

History says that Savage and women don't mix well. But, when Savage returned with Gorgeous

TURNUBUCKLE TURKEY AWARDS!



Randy Savage (left) is a dangerous individual, but he seems especially threatening to females. Miss Madness, Madusa, and Gorgeous George (above) have all felt the wrath of the "Macho Man" at one point or another.



George, Madusa, and Miss Madness '99, we thought there might have been a little safety in numbers.

We were wrong.

Savage understandably went into a rage when Kevin Nash abducted George and kept her for several days. When the "Macho

Man" finally found George in Nash's dressing room, along with Torrie Wilson, he took his anger out on the wrong people. He violently pinched Wilson's nose for laughing and shoved George.

Later, he fired Madusa and almost got into a physical altercation with her. A couple of weeks later, he terminated the services of Miss Madness, also known as Mona. She pleaded for her job, but Savage humiliated Mona by ordering her to get on her knees and beg. Then he fired her anyway.

Savage should vent his frustrations with guys like Kevin Nash and Hulk Hogan. He shouldn't mistreat women and, even more importantly, he shouldn't demean

the women who have been loyal to him.

SHANE McMAHON: LEAVE STEPHANIE ALONE!

Shane has inherited a lot of traits from his father, Vince. Some of them are good characteristics: determination, good business sense, panache, and TV hair. Unfortunately, Shane also possesses many of Vince's bad traits: scheming, lying, and the desire to control other human beings.

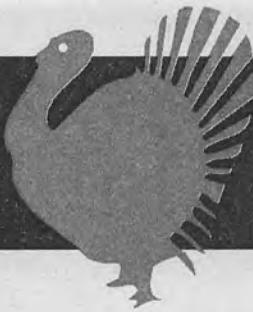
All three of those negative traits have become apparent during his dispute with his younger sister, Stephanie. The McMahon men believe common wrestlers are beneath lofty promoters. When Vince and Shane discovered that Stephanie was dating Test, they were furious.

During one encounter, Shane and The Mean Street Posse charged the ring and attacked Test. Stephanie tried to pull her brother off, but Shane, unaware that it was his own sister behind him, kayoed her with an errant elbow.

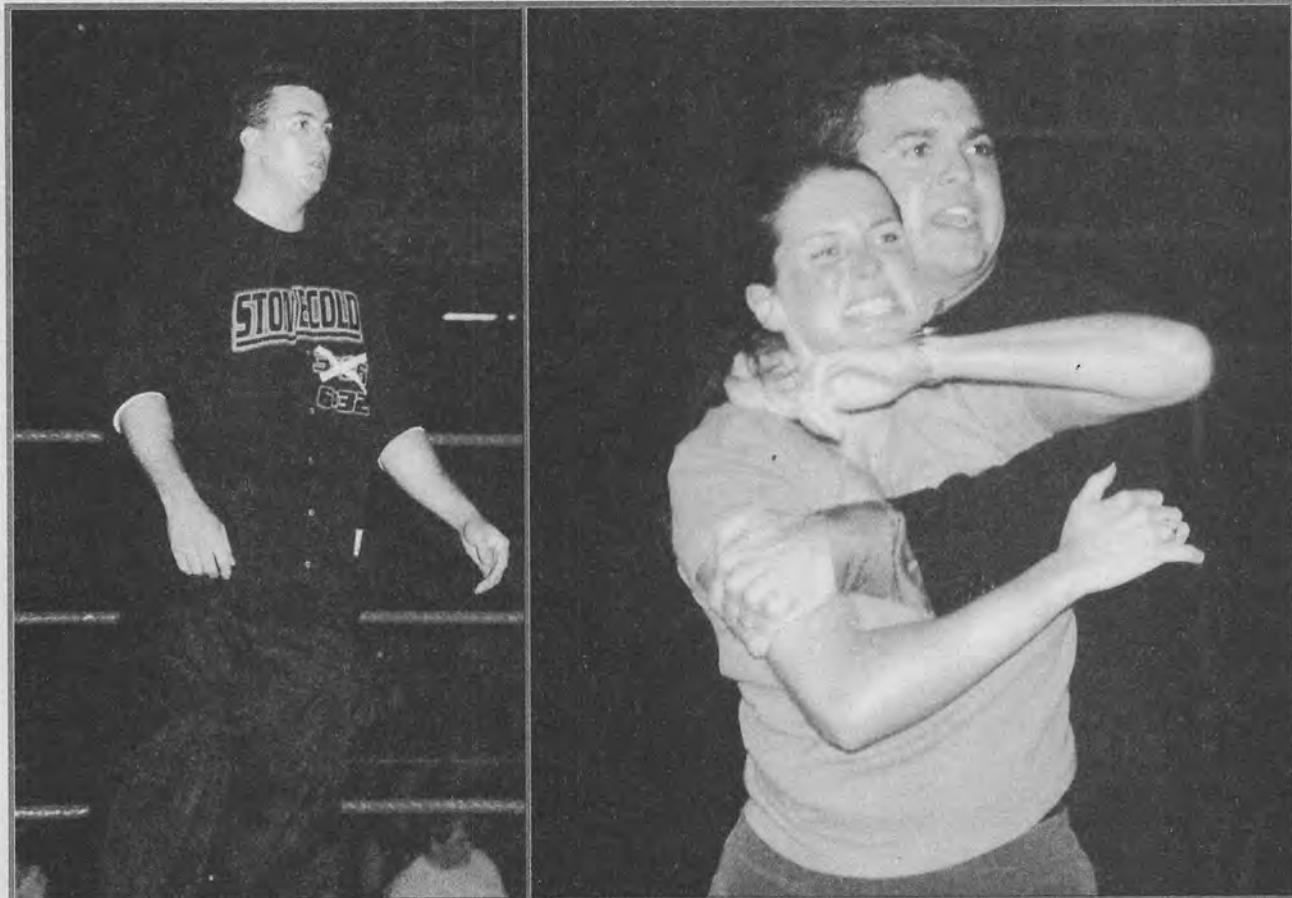
But injuring his own sister didn't stop Shane. He declared war on Test, vowing that the Posse would eliminate him. Apparently, no one told Shane that Test had declared war first. He injured the ribs of Pete Gas, broke Rodney's arm, and put Joey Abs out of commission.

Shane's overprotective tendencies have hurt his sister, both physically and mentally, and are responsible for the injuries of his supposed best friends.

We hope there's plenty of room on the dinner table at the Mc-



PRESENTING THE 1999



Shane McMahon's resemblance to Vince is striking (above), but he has inherited more than his father's looks. His efforts to control the life of his sister, Stephanie (above right), have resulted in injury to her as well as his best friends.

Mahon household this Thanksgiving. Enough room for Shane to make himself comfortable as the biggest turkey there.

REY MISTERIO JR.: BID ADIEU TO "HOOTY-HOO"!

After Misterio spent most of 1998 rehabilitating a torn ACL, we thought he would have a purpose upon returning to WCW. Sure, he

did hold the WCW cruiserweight title for several months in '99 and even held the World tag team title for a brief time with Billy Kidman, but they were footnotes to an otherwise-directionless year.

He and Kidman were never at ease as partners because of their rivalry over the cruiserweight belt, so that relationship fizzled. Instead, Misterio started teaming with his fellow Luchadore Konnan.

Ah, Konnan, that wonderful friend. He's the one that fell into the favor of the NWO by injuring Misterio's leg in '97. He's the one who cost Misterio considerable career time.

Konnan wasn't his only pal this year. He became a member of the

short-lived No Limit Soldiers. Misterio and Konnan were star players in an otherwise-insignificant band of wrestlers that included Brad Armstrong (a.k.a. B.A.) and Swoll. Master P didn't even stick around to help his crew.

"Rey-Rey" became a rapper, donned white and gray camouflage, and adopted a hood persona. He began pimping his head to and fro, used his rough rider move more frequently, and screamed "hooty-hoo" at every opportunity. He was like a combination of D-Lo Brown and Gary Coleman.

Misterio was an early forerunner for the number-one spot in this year's "PWI 500." Sadly, his al-

TURNBUCKLE TURKEY AWARDS!



Although the unmasked Rey Misterio Jr. (left) remains just as popular as the masked Luchadore, his career has suffered from his relationship with Konnan and association with the No Limit Soldiers (above).

She constantly stirred up trouble while her now-ex-husband, Steve McMichael, was in The Four Horsemen. When Steve became upset, Debra latched on to Jeff Jarrett and helped him win the WCW U.S. title. She interfered several times during matches between Jarrett and McMichael, often causing her husband to lose. She won a '97 "Turnbuckle Turkey" for that one.

Her tactics have continued in the WWF. Jarrett rescued Debra from obscurity by hiring her as his manager again. When Jarrett and Owen Hart captured the WWF World tag team title this year, Debra took full credit for her men's success.

Now Jarrett is letting Debra know how it feels to be used—and he's being seen as the bully.

Why do fans sympathize with Debra? It's because she intro-

lance with those No Limit Soldiers and his lack of direction ruined his chances.

DEBRA: IS IT TALENT OR "DA BRA"?

It's easy to feel sorry for Debra. She did everything possible to help Jeff Jarrett retain the Intercontinental title. Yet Debra got the blame when Jarrett went on a losing streak due to his own limitations.

But isn't Debra getting what she deserves?



Debra, glancing at her man from ring-side (top), has helped Jeff Jarrett quite a bit by knowing when to give everyone a look at her puppies (below), but whose best interest does Debra have at heart when she chooses to bare some skin? Probably not "Double-J's."





PRESENTING THE 1999

duced another weapon in the censor-free WWF: her smoldering sexuality. By unbuttoning her blouse, Debra has distracted most of Jarrett's opponents and become hugely popular with male-dominated crowds.

Was Debra sincere when she tried to prevent Jarrett from attacking Ben Stiller and Val Venis in recent confrontations? Or does she hope to ride Stiller or Venis' coattails to the top?

Our bet is this was all just another ruse of "The Golden Couple."

CHYNA: MAKING A FOOL OF "TRIPLE-H"?

Chyna was an equal partner to Hunter Hearst Helmsley ... until they joined DeGeneration X. She was pushed into the background as Helmsley became the eventual leader of the group.

She became cold, silent, and brooding. The rest were rowdy and boisterous. Earlier this year, Helmsley was on the verge of defeating The Rock for the WWF title in an "I Quit" match when Kane threatened to choke-slam Chyna if "Triple-H" didn't relent. Helmsley let go of The Rock, but it turned out to be a trick; as Chyna went Corporate that night.

Helmsley reunited with Chyna at WrestleMania XV, insisting that the World title would be their next stop. He secured a title match with WWF World champion Steve Austin at SummerSlam '99 ... until Commissioner Shawn Michaels arranged a three-way bout comprised of The Undertaker, Helmsley, and Chyna to determine the top contender.

Austin helped Chyna claim the victory, and she refused to relinquish



Chyna (above) has proven to be sneaky, underhanded, and treacherous—even when compared to a snake like Hunter Hearst Helmsley. She accompanies "Triple-H" to the ring now (below), but wait until she gets a taste for Hunter's World title.



her spot to Helmsley. For more than three years, Helmsley and Chyna had worked toward the goal of making "Triple-H" the WWF champ. The notion of Chyna being champion had never been considered.

With the title shot intact, Chyna started making her own plans—without Helmsley. She ignored the fact that it was Helmsley, not her, who had logged hundreds of matches since their partnership began. Helmsley was right. It was "his time."

Of course, Mankind won the title shot from Chyna in a special challenge match, and Chyna went back to helping Helmsley like nothing had happened.

Don't believe Helmsley has forgotten ... not even now that he has the WWF title.

KANE: BAD NEWS FOR X-PAC?

Kane didn't have a stable life as a kid. He grew up in a funeral home with his mother and the man presumed to be his father. Later, he found out Paul Bearer was his real father. To make matters worse, the parents who raised him died in a hellish inferno. Kane was blamed for that fire, although its flames had scarred him for life.

Today, The Undertaker claims to have started the blaze. We may never know the truth.

Kane needs counseling. He has been burned, figuratively and literally, by his own father and brother. He was mistreated by Vince McMahon and taunted by members of The Corporation. Chyna led Kane away from The Corporation, but she betrayed him as well.

Then he met X-Pac. They won the WWF World tag team title together. X-Pac became the first person in the WWF who got to know Kane as a human being. At least, X-Pac thought he knew him.

Until The Undertaker resurfaced. X-Pac said Kane would

TURNUCKLE TURKEY AWARDS!



His mask and storied past make Kane (left) a sympathetic figure to many WWF fans, but he also has a history on turning against his partners without notice, a fate that almost certainly awaits X-Pac (above).

have to choose between their friendship and Undertaker. 'Taker said he wouldn't force Kane to make a choice, which seemed to bring Kane around to his side.

That alliance ended when Undertaker and "Big Show" Paul Wight sent X-Pac to the hospital. Kane finally found the emotions that had laid dormant so long.

But can he really be trusted?

Remember, Paul Bearer's blood runs through his veins.

ROB VAN DAM: WHAT'S HE WAITING FOR?

He calls himself "Mr. PPV." He calls himself the future of ECW. He calls himself the greatest ECW TV champion of all-time.

We are inclined to agree with the latter. Van Dam was about to reach his 18-month mark as TV champ as this magazine went to press, and no one has come close to defeating him, except Jerry Lynn—and RVD has found a way to outsmart and outwrestle him every time.

The ECW TV championship is becoming infamous for holding rising stars in holding patterns. Shane Douglas once held the belt for 11 months, and Taz held it for 9 months. Both were touted as the star of ECW, and both clamored for heavyweight title shots. When those opportunities finally came their way, Douglas and Taz each captured the heavyweight strap.

Van Dam is being strangely quiet. He's not begging for a shot at World champion Taz. As far as we know, he hasn't even requested a match. We can't remember the last time Van Dam mentioned Taz' name.

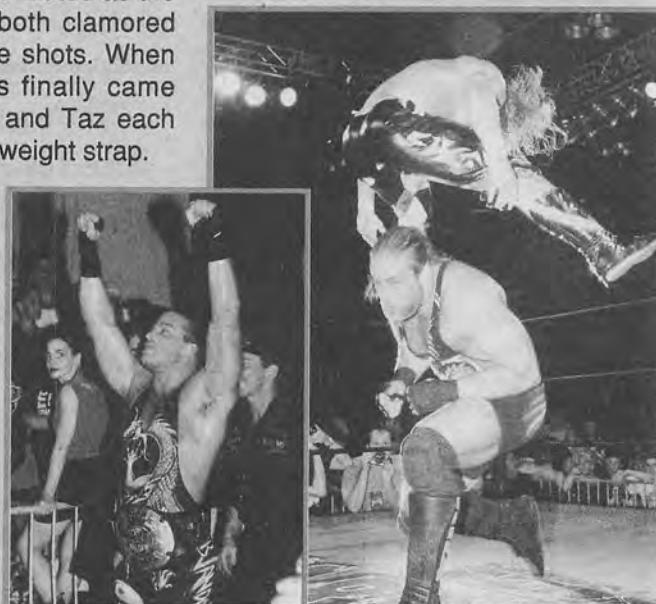
Is Van Dam afraid of "The Human Suplex Machine"?

He couldn't be... could he? Along with every-

one else, he has seen Taz annihilate the toughest of opponents: Douglas, Sabu, Buh Buh Ray Dudley, Chris Candido, Yoshihiro Tajiri, and the list grows longer by the month. Perhaps Van Dam fears the taste of the katahajimi.

The answer must be that Van Dam fears failure more than he fears Taz. It's easier for Van Dam to remain TV champ and proclaim himself the greatest TV champ there ever was than it is to risk his reputation in a quest for the World title. It's easier to make future promises than do the hard chores today.

Van Dam must issue a challenge to Taz, but more importantly, he must be prepared when Taz accepts. □



It's almost as easy for Rob Van Dam to lift his arms and point at himself (above left) as it is for him to have great matches with Jerry Lynn (above right), but shouldn't RVD aspire to something greater than the TV title—like Taz' ECW World title?

HOTSEAT

THE UNDERTAKER

"THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO SAVE KANE"

THERE MIGHT NEVER have been a family feud in wrestling that has been as bitter or taken as many twists and turns as the war between Kane and The Undertaker.

Kane entered the WWF full of hatred and intent on getting revenge in the most violent ways possible. He was determined to inflict punishment on his half-brother, The Undertaker, who was at a disadvantage from the start. He didn't know Kane was still alive, so the sight of his sibling was unsettling at first. Initially, he refused to wrestle Kane, but he changed his mind after getting attacked on several occasions.

Since that time, the half-brothers have reunited, split, reunited, and split again. Both men have switched roles of hero and villain. Both men have had Paul Bearer in their corner during some of their violent bouts. Their latest split was the most bitter of all: The Undertaker wanted Kane to choose between family and his friendship with X-Pac. Kane chose the latter, forsaking his evil half-brother and turning to his tag team partner. The sibling ring rivalry resumed.

Recent developments saw the two battling over the WWF World tag team title. The Undertaker

and "Big Show" Paul Wight stripped Kane and X-Pac of the belts at SummerSlam, only to lose them eight nights later to The Rock and Mankind.

The fire that burns in this feud will probably never be extinguished. The memories of the past will never fade and will always keep them at odds.

Senior Writer Steve Anderson sat down with Undertaker to discuss the latest chapter in the blood feud that continues to rage.

"I have no brother named Kane. There is a man walking around the WWF who used to be my blood, but he has chosen to turn his back on me."

Q: First of all, Undertaker, I guess I should thank ...

A: Let's get one thing straight, Anderson. The only reason I agreed to sit down for this interview is to get my story across. The writers of this magazine and the broadcasters of the WWF are spewing ridiculous propaganda. I'm here to put a stop to it, so ask your questions

carefully. And don't bother thanking me for anything.

Q: Okay, then update us on the status of your relationship with your brother, Kane.

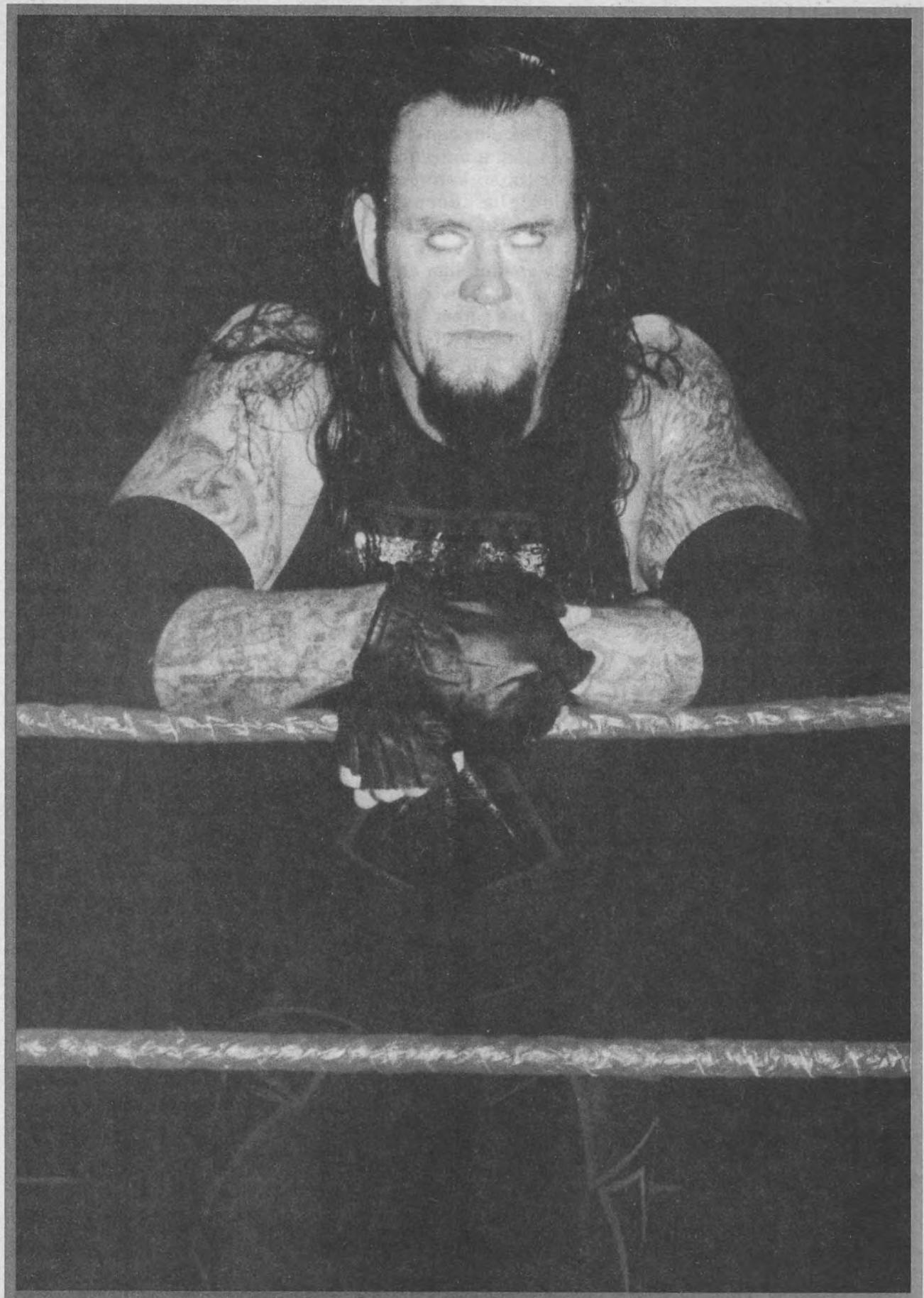
A: Understand one thing. I have no brother named Kane. There is a man walking around the WWF who used to be my blood, but he has chosen to turn his back on me. In spite of all that I have done for him, he has decided to betray me. He has forsaken his family. It was his choice not to be my brother, so now I know what I have to do.

Q: And what is that?

A: Since he chooses not to be with me, he is against me. That's how it works. I tried to help him. I tried to be a role model for him. I tried to explain to him the importance of family. I tried to show him how men like X-Pac were just using him. But Kane walked away from me. Now, one thing is certain: There's nothing I can do to save Kane. Therefore, I must destroy him.

Q: That sounds drastic.

A: Drastic? Let me tell you what drastic is. Drastic is choosing some skinny punk





"I saw potential in The Big Show, and I'm harnessing that potential as we speak."

over your own flesh and blood. Drastic is picking a fight with your brother when he tries to reach out to you. Nothing I am doing at this point is drastic. I'm doing what I have to do.

Q: Don't you think you obtained a measure of revenge when you and The Big Show won the tag team title?

A: That didn't even scratch the surface. Taking a belt away from Kane is nothing compared to what's going to happen to him in the near future. The pain of a title loss does not come close to matching the physical pain that me and my new disciple are going to inflict.

Q: You're speaking of Paul Wight?

A: One more stupid question, Anderson, and I will stop speaking and start pummeling you.

Q: Let's talk about him then. He came into the WWF as a member of The Corporation. Shortly after that, he became a fan favorite. Now, under your influence, he is back on

the dark side. What type of influence did you exert over him to get him to change his ways again?

A: Simple. I showed him what the dark side can do for him. That inane entrance music and those fans wouldn't bring him success in the WWF. He was hanging around with morons who only wanted him around for his size. They didn't care about his career. They didn't care about his future. I showed him what a man of his size could do with the right guidance and direction. I saw potential in Show, and I'm harnessing that potential as we speak.

Q: There are times when he seems to have trouble adapting to your style, and sometimes it seems that there is friction between the two of you.

A: You media types will make a big deal out of the smallest things. If we shoot each other dirty looks, everyone thinks a split is coming. That's what you want, be-

cause our alliance is so fearsome. It strikes at the very core of professional wrestling. It changes the power structure. You live in fear of The Big Show and "The Lord Of Darkness" being a team. As far as him adapting to my style, that will come with time. He has to realize that there is a pecking order when you align yourself with me and Paul. There are things you do and things you don't do. He's learning just fine.

Q: What about the tough love you have spoken about? What about supposedly leaving him in the desert and making him face your opposition by himself?

A: Supposedly? You think I'd make something like that up? Look, I needed to know that The Big Show was all that he said he was. I wanted to see if he was the wild animal that I thought he was. To hang with The Undertaker, you have to possess survival instincts. You have to be a man, pure and



Intent on controlling everything in the WWF, The Undertaker (battling Steve Austin) has taken on The Big Show as his partner.



Undertaker says that no matter who he allies himself with, no matter who else wrestles Kane, he will be the one to destroy his own half-brother.

simple. He proved that. The same principle relates to the ring as well. If he can't handle two men at once, what's the point of having him around?

Q: Is he the one who will ultimately destroy Kane?

A: Anderson, if you are going to come out of this with any understanding, then you have to realize this one thing. No one will destroy Kane but me. I made him. I can break him. The Big Show has nothing to do with this. I know Kane inside and out, and I can get into his psyche as well as break his fool neck. We're cut from the same cloth, so I know it will take a while, but the day will come when Kane is no longer around.

Q: X-Pac is obviously in your path, too. After all, he and Kane have forged a bond.

A: A bond? What bond is stronger than blood? None. I had that bond with my brother before others brain-

washed him into believing that he could be anything close to a human being. If X-Pac chooses to be a casualty in this war, then so be it. The Big Show and I have proved that we can snap him like a twig. We can take that skinny body and break it in half. If he wants to get in the way, then we can't be held responsible for what we do to him. The best thing for him is to back away before he gets seriously hurt. We've just been toying with him up to this point.

Q: You and The Big Show were the WWF World tag team champions. Is getting the title back as important as your desire for destruction?

A: The tag team title is a tool. Others think that because we no longer hold the belts, a rift has been created between Show and me. That isn't the case at all. The best thing about having the belts is that we have more victims to destroy, victims that will



"I have learned to survive on my own. I have learned that the only friend and family that I need is myself."

actually line up for their own demise.

Q: But if the belts are important, why did you walk on The Big Show the night you lost the belts and leave him to wrestle on his own?

A: In due time, you will understand my methods.

Q: Is your future in a team or alone? After all, you have been a loner for most of your career.

A: I have learned to survive on my own. I have learned that the only friend and family that I need is myself. If Paul Bearer and The Big Show want to tag along while I complete my takeover of the WWF, then so be it. But they best be loyal. They best listen. They best be subservient to my demands.

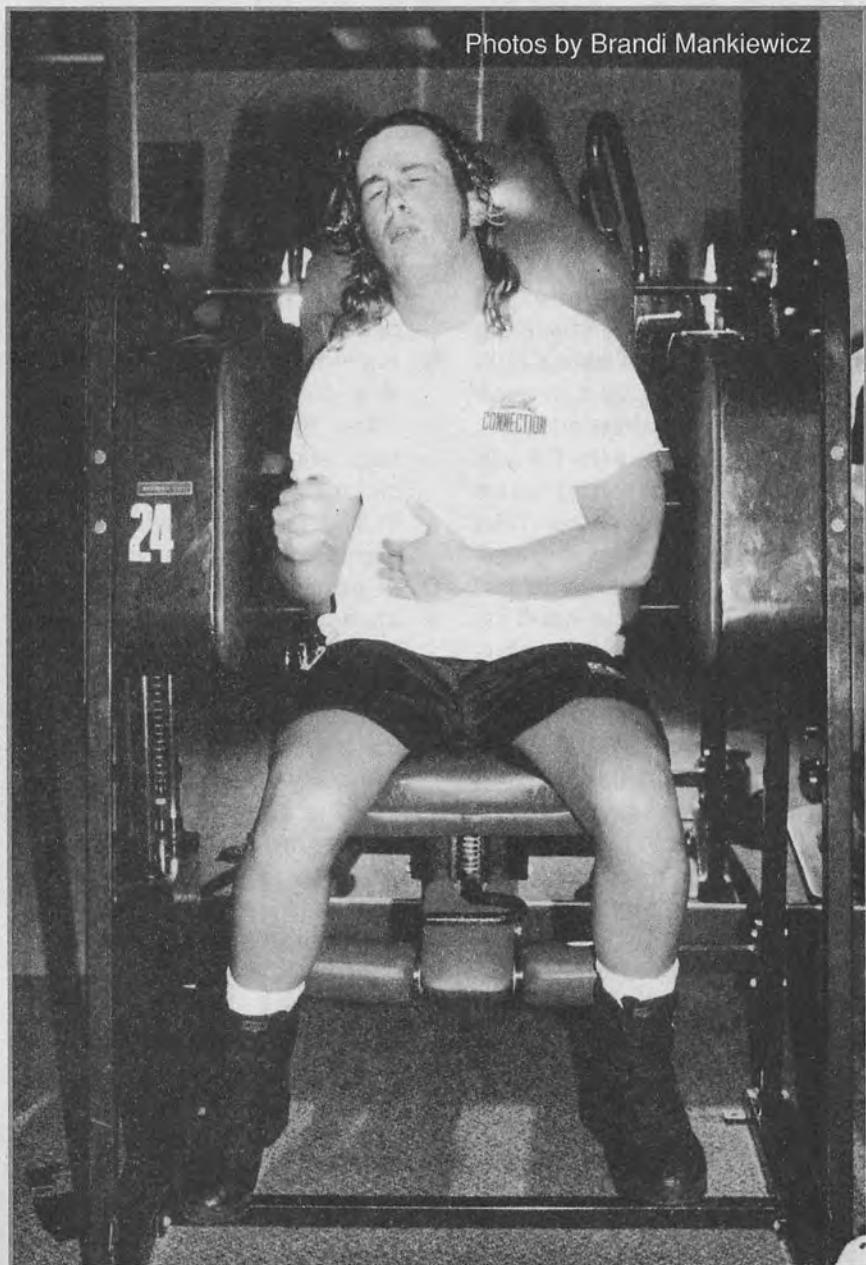
Q: Thank you for your time.

A: Like I said before, don't thank me for my time, Anderson. Thank me for not hurting you when I had the chance. I've got bigger challenges ahead of me. □

EXCLUSIVE!

THE STEVE CORINO

Photos by Brandi Mankiewicz



Steve Corino

**wanted to
impress the
world with
his workout
regimen.**

**We gave him
the benefit of
the doubt.
We're still
not impressed**

Steve Corino complains about tenderness in his appendix that, he claimed, hampered his ability to perform a complete workout for INSIDE WRESTLING.

WORKOUT!

(Maybe You Should Just Work On Those Legs, Steve!)

By Dan Murphy

T DIDN'T TAKE Steve Corino long to make a name for himself in ECW. Right off the bat, he became the target of hardcore legends Tommy Dreamer and Mahoney by claiming neither man had any scientific skills whatsoev-

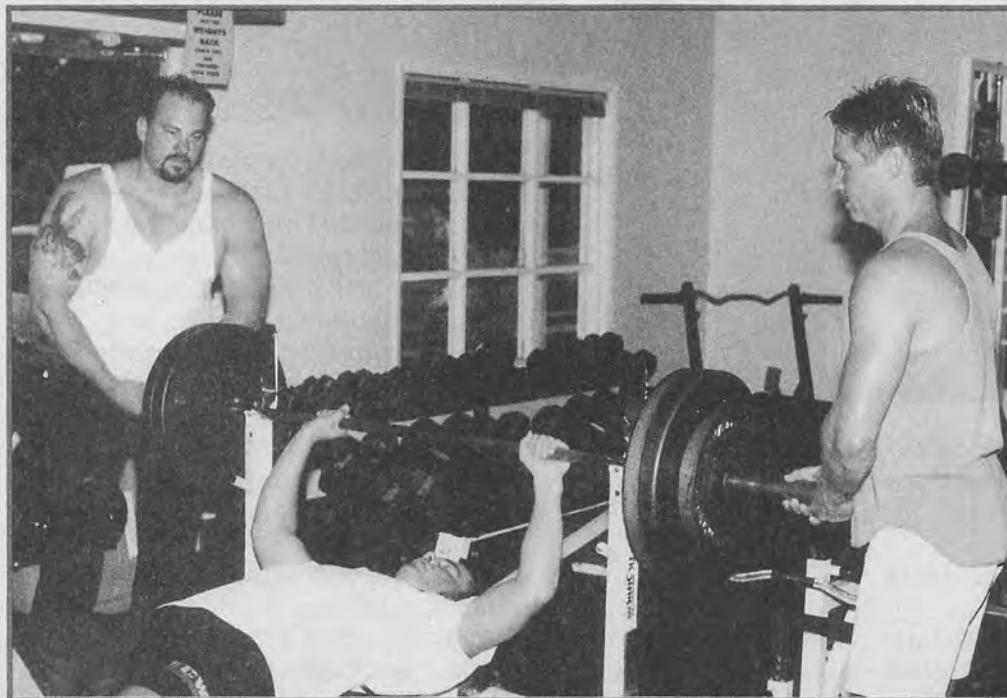
er and therefore didn't really deserve to be called a wrestler. Then he called out ECW World champion Taz and lured him into a sneak-attack by Chris Candido. After that, the self-professed flag-bearer of "old-school Memphis-style" wrestling aligned himself with Yoshihiro Tajiri, officially

making himself number one on Taz' list of enemies.

One thing Corino has not done since his debut in ECW is impress the fans and his peers with his in-ring ability. Though he certainly is a skilled mat wrestler, at 6'1" and 220 pounds(soaking wet), Corino doesn't have a lot of muscle to back up his ever-running mouth.

Corino has heard all the criticisms, and he contacted the offices of INSIDE WRESTLING in an effort to help him put an end to it.

"I think all the fans need to understand the type of athleticism I possess. The best way for them to appreciate my physical abilities would be for them to check out one of my grueling workouts," Corino said in a phone conversation with INSIDE WRESTLING Managing Editor Brandi Mankiewicz. Corino's solution: Invite the staff



Corino was able to lift this barbell—with the help of two other people! Now that's an achievement of which a man can be so proud!

What you can't tell from these photos, unfortunately, is that Corino is only lifting 20 pounds with both arms.



After completing just two of the intended three sets of curls, the dumbbells were taken by a woman in her mid-40s ... who quickly completed three sets.

of INSIDE WRESTLING to a suburban Philadelphia gym to record a "typical old-school workout" for Corino's fans.

The offer was too good to refuse.

When Mankiewicz and I arrived at the Nautilus Connection in Trappe, Pennsylvania, Corino, decked out in a Nautilus Connection T-shirt, was completing a

set of squat-thrusts in the parking lot ("It gives a little more spring to the old dropkicks," Corino contended).

Once inside, Corino began with a series of stretches. "Stretching is the most important part of any workout," he said between toe-touches. "I bet most of the meatheads in ECW have never heard of the physiological

benefits of warming up." The stretches continued for nearly an hour before Corino said he was ready to hit the weights.

"I'm going to have to apologize in advance," Corino said. "When I woke up this morning, I felt some tenderness in my appendix. It flares up now and then, you know. My team of doctors has advised me to go easy today." Somehow, we weren't surprised.

Corino began with a set of dumbbell curls. To start, he selected a 15-pound dumbbell and began three sets of 10 repetitions. He finished the first two sets, said he felt "ripped," and began preening in front of a mir-



Corino says his workouts are what make him worthy of the Bill Watts Trophy, and of carrying the heritage of "old school, Memphis-style" wrestling.

ror. As he flexed, a woman who appeared to be in her mid-40s asked if he had finished with the dumbbells, then began an identical set. Miffed at being shown up, Corino criticized the woman's technique and moved on to the leg-press machine.

Again, Corino opted for a light weight and gingerly began a series of repetitions. "The key to my success is my wiry strength and my dedication to perfect execution," Corino said. "You take any guy off the street and get him a gym membership and he can get strong enough to lift any amount of weight. I, on the other

hand, tailor each and every exercise to key components of my wrestling game."

Corino followed up the leg-presses with a few quick sets of lat pull-downs, abdominal crunches, and squats. The pull-downs, Corino explained, strengthened his neck and shoulders to help him combat nerveholds and to add strength for fireman's carries and airplane spins. The crunches help him kick out of pin attempts, and the squats help him sidestep single-leg shots, one of Taz' specialties. (What he really needs is to work more on his legs and improve his speed, so he can continue to outrun Taz every time the ECW World champ is chasing him.)

Corino then sat down and opened a copy of Lou Thesz' autobiography, *Hooker*, and began reading. "There's no better training for an old-school Memphis-style superstar than learning from the master," Corino said. After a few min-

utes, Brandi suggested Corino could put his workout time to better use if he opened up the book while riding a Lifecycle or climbing a Stairmaster, to which Corino snapped, "I don't tell you what shutter speed to use, so don't try to tell me how to run my workout." Rebuffed, Mankiewicz snuck away for a soda as Corino continued his reading. She was just returning when Corino decided he was ready to continue.

"Another thing that's eminently unique about my workouts is that I take some of the training of the greats and combine that with training programs from today,"

Corino said, surveying others in the gym and rolling his neck in circles. "I strictly adhere to the 'Whipper' Billy Watson diet, and my upper body program is modeled after Frank Gotch's. On the days when I'm not bulking up with weights, I take part in several aerobics classes." Seeking to avoid the mental image of Corino in a pair of leg-warmers and sweating to the oldies, we suggested Steve move on to the bench-press. Finally, we would get the chance to see exactly what Corino was capable of.

We got the impression Corino hasn't used the bench too often when he laid down on his stomach rather than his back. When another patron of the gym explained the correct position, Corino quickly sat up and explained he was stretching before beginning, much like Jackie Fargo would do. After cracking his knuckles repeatedly, Corino laid down, lifted a bar loaded with 275 pounds, and groaned as the weight came crashing down to his chest. Two spotters quickly arrived on the scene. Corino removed 100 pounds from the bar, gave his "appendix" a thorough massage, and began lifting.

After four sets, a red-faced, panting Corino excused himself, saying he needed a drink of water. After 15 minutes, Corino still hadn't returned. An employee of the gym later informed us she had seen our friend sprint out a back door, still wearing his sweaty gym clothes.

The next day, Brandi received a phone call from the suddenly reclusive Corino. Predictably, Corino claimed he was the victim of yellow journalism and a smear campaign coordinated by Taz. He even threatened to take legal action against INSIDE WRESTLING if this story ever showed up in print.

Go ahead, Steve. We have the truth on our side. □

The telephone wires sizzle each month, as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. Here's the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to feel the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ...

One On One

ERNEST MILLER VS. Buff Bagwell. "The Cat's" funk vs. Buff's stuff. Let's face it—this sounds like a silly feud. But Bagwell and Miller have a genuine dislike for one another, and a feud based upon prematch dancing shoes and post-match posedowns has quickly become no laughing matter.

One thing both Bagwell and Miller have in common is their enormous egos. "The Cat" has elevated trash-talking to a new level with his promises of "whooping everyone in the building," while Bagwell's recent pinfall on Ric Flair in a six-man tag match on *Nitro* has convinced him that he is the future of WCW.

Both men are hungry up-and-comers on the verge of breaking into WCW's upper echelon. To advance further in the title picture, one must get by the other, and neither man is willing to back down. At *Road Wild*, Bagwell got the best of Miller when Sonny Ono's interference backfired, allowing Buff to roll Miller up for the pin. A similar result occurred when the two squared off in a rematch on *Nitro*, but that time Ono's interference was countered by the return of Lex Luger, who chased the manager around the ring, allowing Bagwell to connect with the blockbuster for the win.

Despite the losses, Miller is far from humbled, and he was eager for the opportunity to face off with his buff nemesis ... "One On One."

ONE O



"What I dislike the most about you is that had some success in martial arts, and you just waltzed into WCW thinking that everyone would just bow down and kiss your feet. You've never paid your dues."

—Buff Bagwell

BUFF BAGWELL: (In a hoarse falsetto voice) Hello, son ... is that you, baby?

ERNEST MILLER: Mama, it's me, your oldest and handsomest baby boy, "The Cat." I'm glad you called, because I wanted to tell you that I must be the greatest.

BB: (In his natural voice) It doesn't surprise me you think you're talking to your mama, Miller. Between you and Sonny Ono, I'm surprised you're able to get the phone to work at all.

EM: Excuse me, Mr. Buff, The Double Stuff Oreo-eatin' chump. Right about now, I'd probably take a shot at your mama, but I remember how she whooped your tail a while back, and I don't want a piece of that action. Let's say we cut down to the brass tacks, and let me lay a proposition out on the table.

BB: Proposition?

EM: It's a fancy word for let's make a deal, you idiot.

BB: I know what the word means. I just don't see what I'd have to gain from even *listening* to a proposal from you.

EM: And that's another reason why you're a chump. Now will you let "The Cat" continue so I can get back to my dancing. I'm gonna be raising the roof off some club and I ain't got all day to be talking on the phone with you. Here's my proposal: You and me tangle one more time. It don't matter if

N ONE



"The Cat" didn't just have some success in karate. I've trained in tae kwon do, judo, and aikido. Everybody knows I'm the greatest. And about paying my dues? I've whooped so many people that they're still countin' the bodies."

—Ernest Miller

it's at *Nitro*, at *Thunder*, on pay-per-view, or at your mama's house, so long as she doesn't get involved and help me whoop your butt.

BB: It seems to me like I've already wasted too much time on you, Miller. Just a few weeks ago, I was beating Roddy Piper. I was beating Ric Flair. And because of some kind of political game that I still don't understand, I'm stuck pinning your shoulders to the mat instead of getting title matches against Hulk Hogan or Chris Benoit.

EM: Listen, I'm not here to listen to you whine about not getting title matches. I'm here to settle the score. Everyone who saw *Road Wild* saw "The Cat" kick you eight ways into Tuesday. I still get goose pimples all up and down my spine when I think of all those minibikes revving up every time I landed a shot on you. Anyhow, you managed to attack the master, Sensei Ono, and cheap-shot me with that briefcase to get a cheap win. Then when I wanted to right the wrong, I turn around to see Lex Luger beatin' down Sonny. Now the way I see it, Buff Bagwell stole two high-profile wins from me, and I want a chance to avenge them.

BB: Isn't it funny that the way you see things is never the way things are? You want to dance with me again? "Cat," you should know there's more than enough Buff to go

around. See, I'm an easy man to find. Just go to where you see all the ladies congregating, and that's where you'll find Buff Bagwell. You want to go? I'm good to go anytime.

EM: Now you're talkin'. But I'm not just talking about any ordinary, run-of-the-mill match here.

BB: What kind of match do you want? You want to step inside a steel cage? You want to go hardcore rules? Or do you have some kind of martial arts plan up your sleeve?

EM: Okay, five words: dancin' shoes on a pole. First one to get 'em—

BB: You have *got* to be kidding me! Like I said, I don't know why I'm wasting my time talking to you.

EM: I didn't think you'd take the match. See, I only suggested that because I know even my strongest supporters would get bored watching me whoop you for a third time. That way, I could manage to incorporate a few dance moves into the match just for entertainment value. Let's face it, Buff. You're so boring that even your enemies get tired of watching you get beat up.

BB: I hate to break this to you, "Cat," but you *cannot* dance. In fact, outside of Sonny Ono, you could very well be the all-time worst dancer I've ever seen. Your dancing is just about the one thing that's worse than your wrestling. I mean it's—it's just embarrassing. And the only thing worse than your lack of coordination is your taste in music.

EM: Whoa, whoa, whoa! Back up the funk truck! How dare you disparage "The Godfather Of Soul," James Brown! Those are fighting words there. Man, I'm gonna conference call an ambulance right now so you can have one ready and waiting for the next time we get in the ring.

BB: You know what I dislike about you most, Miller? It's not your preoccupation with bad dancing and bad music. It's not even your snivelling little manager. What I dislike the most about you is that had some success in martial arts, and you just waltzed into WCW thinking that everyone would just bow down and kiss your feet. You've never paid your dues. In fact, I'm hard-pressed to think of the last meaningful match you won. And you still run your mouth like you're the second coming of Hulk Hogan.

EM: First of all, I could care less what you don't like about me. Secondly, I'm a former atomic freestyle karate champion. I won the ISKA Kick-Boxing championship. I'm a two-time super heavyweight champion in the World Tournament Karate Championship, in 1996 and 1997 if you want to have someone look it up for you. In other words, "The Cat" didn't just have some success in karate. I've trained in tae kwon do, judo, and aikido. Everybody knows I'm the greatest. And about paying my dues? I've whooped so many people that they're still countin' the bodies.

BB: And a lot of good all those credentials have done, considering I'm still the man who has made a habit of beating you.

EM: Bagwell, it's about time someone teaches you a lesson, and you best believe I'm looking forward to doin' the teaching.

BB: Just like I'm looking forward to declawing the cat with two left feet. *Meow!* □

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Sincerely Yours

(Continued from page 5)

Monday nights in the fall have become quite a routine in my living room. I start with *Monday Nitro* at 8:00 p.m. and fully intend to switch over to ABC at 9 o'clock. But there's a gap between the beginning of *Raw Is War* and the kickoff. I usually get so engrossed in *Raw* that I completely forget about the game (and *Nitro*) and end up tuning into the game sometime in the middle of the first quarter.

Needless to say, without the benefit of picture-in-picture, the whole evening disintegrates into a channel-clicking frenzy that often sends my otherwise-agreeable wife into the reading room.

Please, for the sake of my marriage, will *Nitro*, *Raw*, or *Monday Night Football* kindly move to another night?

PHIL SHELBY
Swainton, NJ

WIGHT IS WRONG

What is "Big Show" Paul Wight doing with The Undertaker? Doesn't he know that 'Taker is pure evil and that by hanging with

him, he's going to get corrupted as well?

Besides, why does Wight have to hang with The Undertaker? He's the largest professional wrestler on the face of the planet. He definitely doesn't need the help of The Undertaker, so why has he decided to align with UT?

I really can't believe it's because he's scared of the competition in the WWF. Chris Jericho? Wight swatted Y2J like a fly when they were both in WCW, so why should it be any different here?

I just wish that Wight would go out on his own and prove to everyone else that he's as good as I think he is. But until he leaves The Undertaker, he won't be able to do prove anything, and as one of his fans, I'll be stuck looking like a moron until he decides to achieve greatness on his own.

I hope he's not with 'Taker long. My friends make fun of me for wearing my old WCW Giant shirt to school.

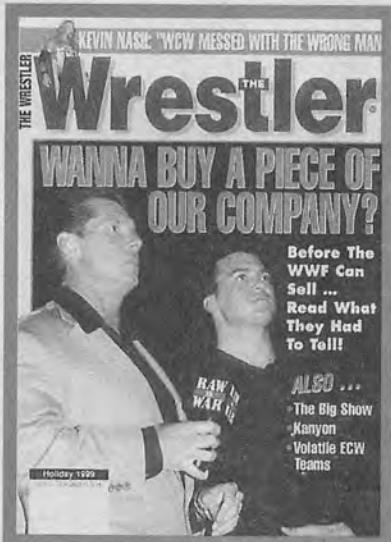
BETSY TODD
Jasper, NC □



When Paul Wight joined forces with The Undertaker, he did so quietly—never stating why he decided to take on this allegiance with the dark side. Reader Betsy Todd likes The Big Show, but doesn't understand his actions.

This Month In...

The Wrestler

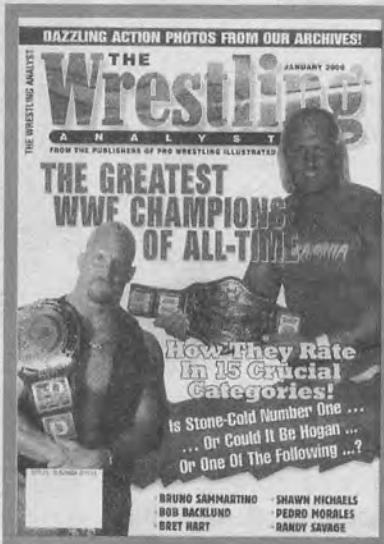


VINCE McMAHON is taking the WWF public. That means *you* could own a piece of the company. But before any company goes public, it must make a lot of information about itself available to the public. We'll give you the shocking highlights! ... So KEVIN NASH has retired after his loss to HULK HOGAN. Don't believe it! Just read what he said in "Q & A"! ... You may not like KANYON's attitude, but you should respect his skills. He's a key player in WCW for a number of reasons. We'll tell you why you should expect big things from him!

All this—and much more!—in the Holiday 1999 issue of *The Wrestler*

NOW ON SALE!

The Wrestling Analyst



Who would you pick as the greatest WWF champion of all-time? Before you say it's STEVE AUSTIN, think about it for a minute. Consult your copy of the *PWI Almanac*. Not easy, is it? We had a hard time coming up with a list of the top eight. HULK HOGAN, BOB BACKLUND, and BRUNO SAMMARTINO are all up there, but after them, it wasn't so easy to make decisions. But we did it, and we also rated each of the top eight in 15 categories. Wrestling sure has changed the days when Bruno and BUDDY ROGERS ruled. Where does your favorite champ rank?

All this—and much more!—in the January 2000 issue of *The Wrestling Analyst*

NOW ON SALE!

On The Road

(Continued from page 10)

But apparently, that's just about what McMahon said, because shortly afterward, the WWF started negotiating with the Dudleys, and shortly after that, the Dudleys were signed, sealed, and delivered.

This whole episode brings up an interesting point about how much the WWF has changed. Ten years ago, if the WWF signed the Dudleys, it would have scrubbed them clean and told them to clean up their act. Now the WWF signs the Dudleys and tells them to keep on doing what they've been doing ... except make it even more extreme if they want to.

Which is exactly what they did. The Dudleys' appearance at *Smackdown* was nothing more than a continuation of what they had been doing in ECW, except in front of a lot more people in a much bigger arena against different opponents. Buh Buh Ray called Albany's fans a bunch of morons. The Dudleys pronounced that there are three commandments: Thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal, and thou shalt not mess with the Dudleys. And I wondered whether the Dudleys followed the first two commandments. Then Buh Buh Ray viciously attacked Bradshaw, and D-Von got involved, and Faarooq got involved, and we had another out-of-control brawl.

Those Dudley fans who fear that the WWF might, indeed, force D-Von and Buh Buh Ray to clean up their act should worry no more. At WWF.com, the official WWF Web site, the WWF had this to say about the Dudleys: "Aside from their death-defying tactics in the ring, the duo has quite a reputation for being crude, crass, and vulgar. Throughout their careers, The Dudley Boyz have shown an



Buh Buh Ray and D-Von Dudley like to incite the fans, and Vince McMahon has given them an open forum to do so in the WWF. Ten years ago, the Dudleys probably would have flopped in the WWF, but in today's climate, they're a great addition to the WWF.

utter disregard for the fans, their opponents, and really pretty much anybody who comes into contact with them. Buh Buh Ray's obscenity-laced tirades (as well as his stuttering) are legendary. Though the Dudleys seem to be more interested in getting down to business and less about riling up the fans, one message still comes through very clearly—don't mess with The Dudley Boyz."

In WWF parlance, this is the raw equivalent of Siskel and Ebert saying, "Two enthusiastic thumbs up!"

Besides, when was the last time the WWF told anybody to clean up their act?

"They haven't said nothing to us," D-Von said. "They wanted us, they got us, and if they wanted us to change, they're messing with the wrong dudes. We ain't changing for nobody. The only difference now is that instead of being ECW

tag team champions, we're going to be WWF tag team champions."

Actually, there's one more difference: no manager. The WWF did not invite Joel Gertner, the Dudleys' outspoken former manager, along for the ride. Given the choice of going to the WWF without Gertner or staying in ECW with Gertner, the Dudleys chose money over loyalty and went to the WWF. I don't blame them. Besides, Gertner did nothing but give me a headache.

Anyway, I'm glad I came to Albany to see the Dudleys in action in the WWF. After the card, I asked the Dudleys where they were staying.

"I don't know," D-Von said. "Maybe we ain't staying nowhere. Maybe we're just gonna stay out all night and party 'til we fall over."

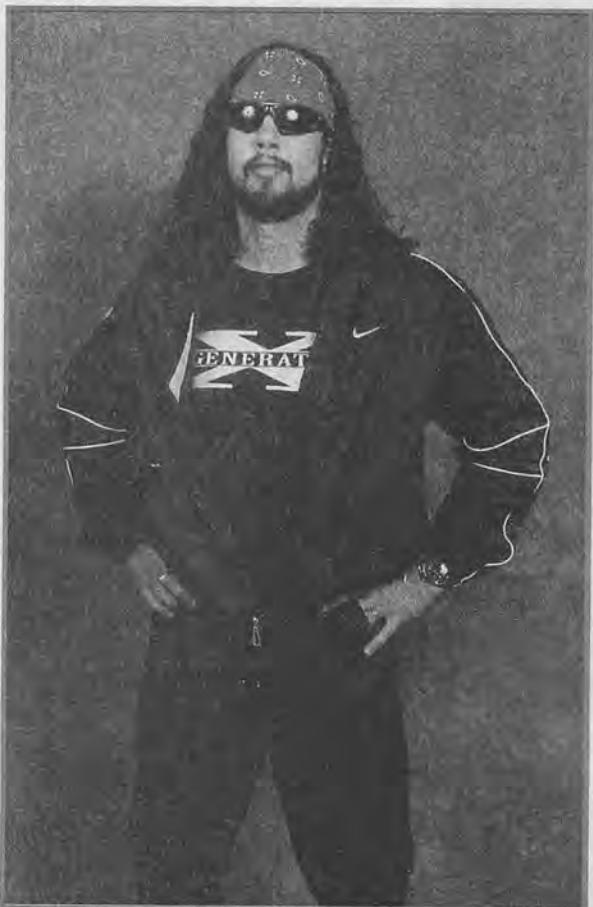
I didn't have the heart, or the nerve, to tell them there was no place to go. □

Behind The Door

(Continued from page 12)

strange thing. The Met is like a museum of music. Most of the productions staged there are more than 100 years old. The Met resists modern music, even modern opera, the way a hip-hop FM radio station resists Barbra Streisand. The place is very starchy. Two gigantic Marc Chagall paintings hang in the windows at the front entrance. Crystal chandeliers hang from the ceiling. The place is done up in red velvet. A Met crowd eats filet mignon and drinks \$100 bottles of champagne during intermissions.

Steve Austin drinks \$3 six-packs of Steveweiser.



X-Pac felt right at home at The Met among other music fans. That he was even invited to the awards show shows just how deeply wrestling has permeated popular culture.

Debra looked as good as she has ever looked.

Road Dogg was ... Road Dogg.

X-Pac looked more like a rock star than anybody in the group.

Mariah Carey at the Met. Let me tell you something about Mariah Carey at the Met. Mariah Carey probably has a good enough voice that if she wanted to, she could have sung at the Met. Instead, Mariah Carey married up, got hot in the pop music business, and now sings syrupy songs and dresses like a stripper.

Mariah Carey is what Debra would be if she could sing.

Anyway, back to the MTV Video Music Awards at the Met.

I couldn't get in.

I'm going to admit that right now. I couldn't get in. I couldn't get a press pass. I couldn't get a ticket. I had to wait outside with everybody else, then head to a bar across the street to watch the show on TV. So I had to find out later from Steve Austin that "they have some pretty damn amazing costumes backstage" and from Debra that "the people sitting next to me didn't know who I was" and from X-Pac that the lower lobby was decorated with rock memorabilia, which was news to me, because the last time I was at the Met, the lower lobby was decorated with

opera memorabilia.

Then Austin said, "They should hold Raw here."

I don't think that will ever happen.

On the other hand, the mere presence of WWF stars at the MTV Video Music Awards is additional proof that the rock 'n' wrestling connection has been reborn, this time as rap 'n' wrestling. Prior to SummerSlam, MTV devoted whole hours of programming to shows with WWF themes, including WWF Karaoke featuring The Godfather (who, typically, didn't sing, but had his ladies sing for him). I'm starting to think that wrestling's current boom period isn't merely just a phase; it could be permanent.

And I'm thinking I might want to buy some of that WWF stock. □

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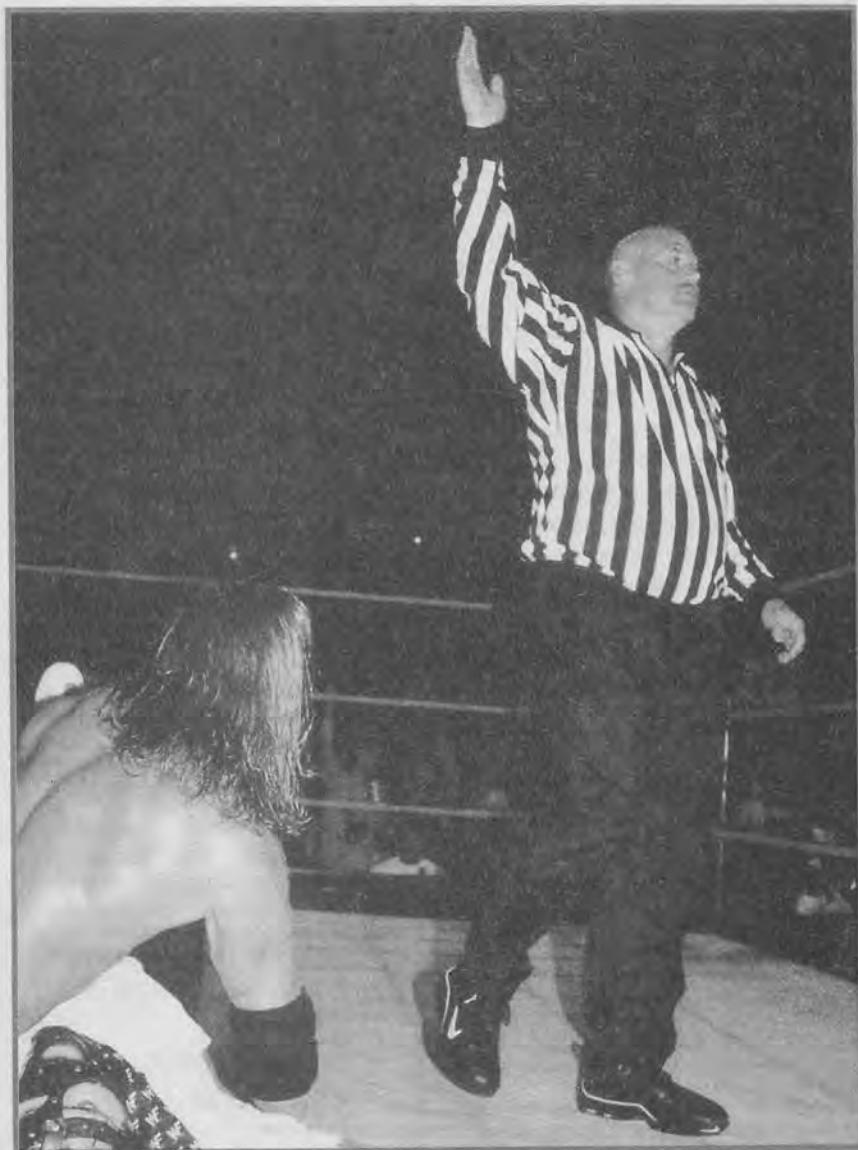
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The Insider

(Continued from page 14)



Even Jesse Ventura did his best to deny "Triple-H" the WWF World title at SummerSlam. He wouldn't count Hunter's pin on Mankind because "Triple-H" used a chair. I remember Steve Austin getting away with similar tactics.

remember that your number-one hero, Steve Austin, once did the same thing.

Should all of this be forgotten just because "Triple-H" is now the WWF World champion? No. Because if this grievance is not aired, it could happen again. There could be another man just like "Triple-H" waiting for his opportunity. These horrid events could very easily be repeated.

Don't think for a minute that the fine line between fan favorites and rulebreakers has been blurred all that much. Rulebreakers are still bearing the brunt of mass discrimination. Having the belt around the waist of Steve Austin was good business for the WWF. Having it around the waist of "Triple-H" may not sell as many T-shirts or get the WWF a record quarter-hour rating on *Raw*, but at least you have in

Helmsley a champion with conviction and dignity.

Throughout 1999, the WWF title had been tossed between a freak (Mankind), two pseudo-rule-breakers (The Rock and Austin), and an evil dead man (The Undertaker). Finally, the gold and leather strap is around the middle of a man who is not a cliché-spewing cartoon character. Finally, a guy who has not sold his soul is on top of the mountain.

I would like to tell you that "Triple-H" will hold the belt for a good long time. But I can't. That is not a reflection on his talent, but a statement on the current state of affairs in the WWF. There are powerful men who will not want Helmsley to hold the title very long. After all, he broke Jim Ross' arm and seriously injured the main meal ticket, Steve Austin.

So Mankind will receive rematch after rematch. The Rock, who is just now noticing his plummeting stock, will cry and whine for more shots at the belt that he hasn't earned. One after the other, they will line up to face "Triple-H." Stipulations will be created, then changed, then tweaked a bit more, then changed again. Other rulebreakers will be convinced to go after one of their own. The onslaught will not stop until the WWF gets exactly what it wants.

Ex-WWF champion "Triple-H."

I believe in "Triple-H." I believe that a man of his convictions can still go a long way in the face of overwhelming obstacles. No matter how long his title reign lasts, I will enjoy every day that he wears the gold. I will enjoy watching him embarrass fan favorite after fan favorite. And I will enjoy watching him react every time a federation official crosses him.

WWF World champion "Triple-H." Long may he reign. □

On Assignment

(Continued from page 16)



Steve Austin got a little taste of Mr. Socko at SummerSlam, thanks to Mankind. Winning the World title at the WWF's premier summer event was made more special to Mankind because he pinned "Stone-Cold" to do it.

"Everyone was talking about how this was 'Triple-H's' night," he continued. "They said that it was his destiny to become the WWF champion. Well, at least he said it was. The only reason they were saying that was because I was out of the picture temporarily. I came back with a vengeance. I wanted to hurt and embarrass 'Triple-H' tonight. I think I did a damn fine job of both, and I ended up the WWF champion, too."

Pinning Austin is a major accomplishment for anyone these days, and Mankind realized as much.

"To beat the top guy at the top of his game gives you such a rush," he said. "I tried so many times to beat Austin. I broke the rules. I went over to Vince's side. I did everything I could do. I'm not sure what the magic formula was tonight, but whatever it was, I did it. Now I can claim to have beaten two top WWF stars for the title."

He reached between the seats and pulled out his newly won trophy. Mankind did not speak for a minute. Paying little attention to the road, he gazed at the belt as if the leather and gold strap was a long-lost friend that he would never see again.

"This is what it's been all about since day one," he finally said in a very subdued tone (perhaps the emotion was sinking in). "Ever since I jumped off the top of that house. Ever since I watched Jimmy Snuka jump from the top of the cage. Ever since my first match where I got my butt summarily kicked, I've waited for this moment."

"This is different from the first two," Foley said as he exited the freeway onto a side street. "The other two were on taped programs, and some people already heard about the results. Tonight, it was, pardon the pun, raw footage of me doing what I do best and coming out on top doing it."

Mankind pulled the car over as the caravan that had been following us stopped behind us. As a few horns blared, Mankind just stared straight ahead.

"Liz," he started, "how about if you take the car from here? I want to get out. I need to walk to clear my head. Let the group know that I decided to do my celebrating in my own way. I think I'm going back to the hotel and call my family. Let them know I'm okay."

Mankind and I both emerged from the vehicle. I could see the confused faces in the cars that lined up behind us. I gave them a signal to wait. Mankind gave them a big wave and a smile and mouthed, "Thank you."

He looked at me, smirked, and shrugged his shoulders. "Later, Lizzie," he said. "I'll talk to you soon."

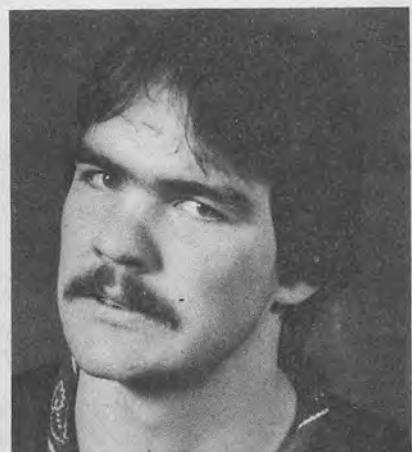
He took the belt, tucked it under his arm, and disappeared into the darkness, whistling a happy tune.

He may have lost the title 24 hours later to "Triple-H," but Mankind would always have SummerSlam. □

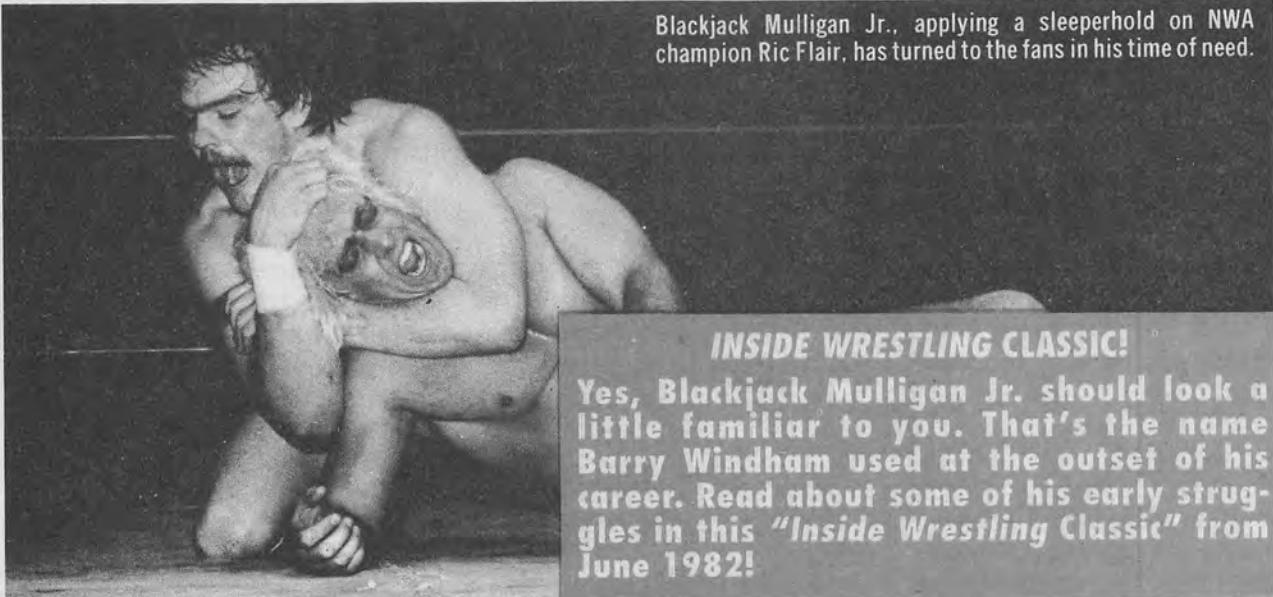
Blackjack Mulligan Jr.'s Tragic Story:

"I HAVE NO FATHER... I HAVE NO FRIENDS!"

His father was at a crossroads in his life, and Blackjack Mulligan helped him decide which way to turn. Blackjack Sr. did what he had to do and made his own decision. Now there are many who blame Blackjack Jr. for merely supporting his father in a time of need



Blackjack Mulligan Jr., applying a sleeperhold on NWA champion Ric Flair, has turned to the fans in his time of need.



INSIDE WRESTLING CLASSIC!

Yes, Blackjack Mulligan Jr. should look a little familiar to you. That's the name Barry Windham used at the outset of his career. Read about some of his early struggles in this "Inside Wrestling Classic" from June 1982!

(Editor's Note: In the June 1982 issue of our sister publication *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, Blackjack Mulligan Jr. was offered a forum for explaining why he begged his father to turn bad. Now

By Blackjack Mulligan Jr.

that the transformation is complete, there is a deeper pain

that digs into this young wrestler's soul. Out of the strong conviction that the wrestling fans ought to understand his situation, Mulligan Jr. requested a forum once again. Here is his story.)

THREE ARE TOO many fans who simply do not understand what goes on in a wrestler's life.

All right, you may say that's a pretty snotty attitude for me to take, particularly since you think you know a lot about us wrestlers, but even though there is a lot you know, there is also a lot more that you don't know.

So you read about Tommy Rich going crazy last year and telling you all to go to hell. The thing is, do you understand *why* he did that, or are you simply going to react to his statement with anger.

I talked to Tommy once about that, and he explained to me a little bit about what kind of a situation he was caught in. The fans didn't understand, he said, and that made it even harder for him.

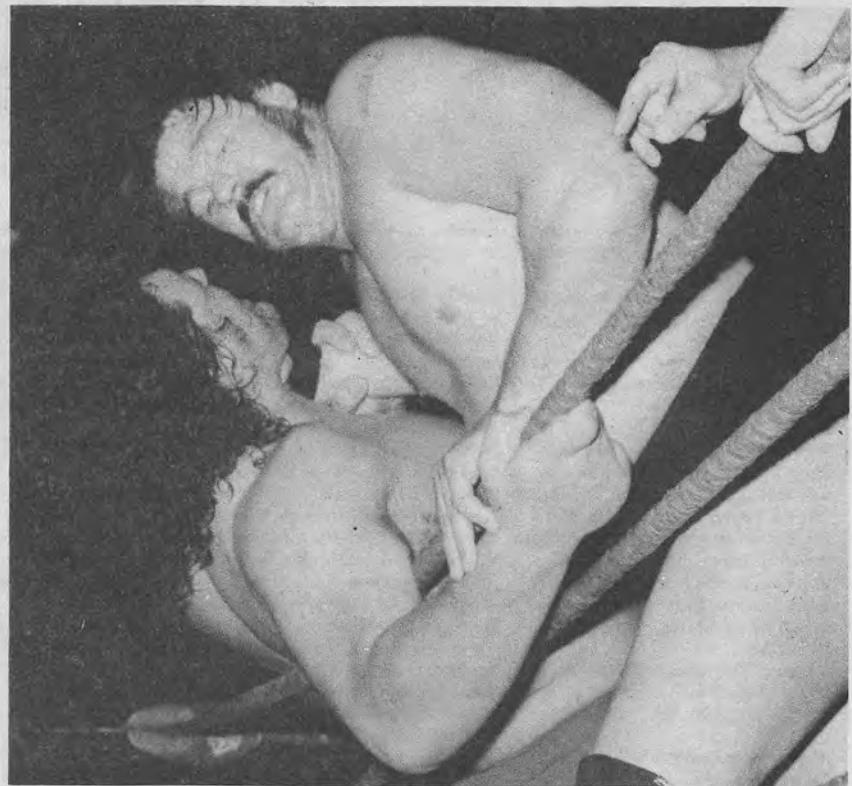
Well, I'm caught in the middle of a bad situation myself right now, and if the fans could understand at least a little bit of what I'm going through, that would make it much easier for me to handle.

I'm all alone right now. My father, my friends, everyone has deserted me.

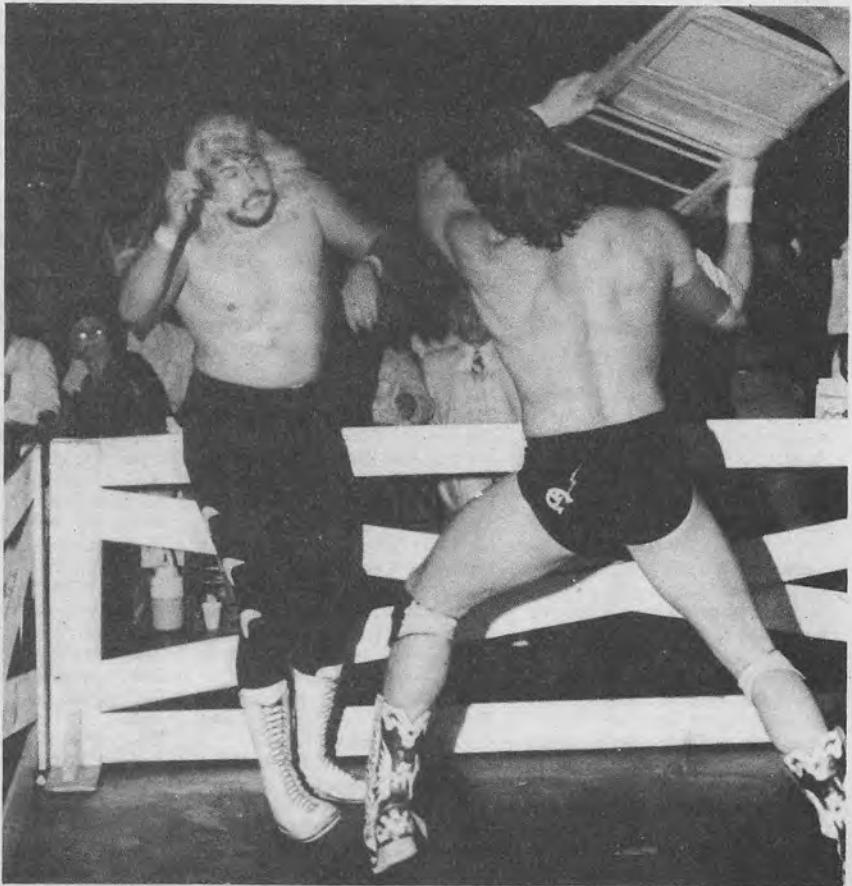


Ever since my first statement came out into print, a lot of my friends have been blaming me for my father's decision to move to the WWF and become a rulebreaker.

(Continued on page 62)



The Mulligans celebrate Blackjack Sr.'s defense of the Mid-Southern belt last July (left). The elder Mulligan, again a rulebreaker, punishes Andre the Giant (above). Despite the tactics he is employing against Wayne Farris (below), Blackjack Jr. insists he will not turn rulebreaker.



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September 1989: Savage Is Shamed By Hogan—Only Elizabeth Can Save Him Now. Also: Lex Luger, Mil Mascaras, Dusty Rhodes, Bushwhackers, Skandor Akbar.

October 1989: Dusty Rhodes' WWF Hit List. Also: Hall-Pillman-Vicious, Curt Hennig, Warriors, Terry Gordy, Kevin Von Erich.

November 1989: Please, Elizabeth—Don't Wrestle Sherrill! Also: Mil Mascaras, Dangerous-Cornette, Sting-T. Funk, Lex Luger, Jake Roberts.

December 1989: The Dusty Road Is Paved With Gold: The American Dream Lives On! Also: Ric Flair, Hogan-Zeus, Embry-Chu-hi, Lex Luger, Larry Zbyszko.

January 1990: Why Sting's Friendship Is Tearing Ric Flair Apart. Also: Morton & Gibson, Hulk Hogan, Sting-Flair, Roberts-Dibiase, Lawler-Embry.

February 1990: Sex Symbol Showdown: Rude's Out ... Piper's In ... And The Fans Love It! Also: Warriors-Skyscrapers, Jimmy Snuka, Tom Zenk, Destruction Crew, Jerry Von Erich.

March 1990 (Special Issue): The '80s: A

Rousing Review Of A Dynamic Decade. Also: Bobby Heenan, Ric Flair, Paul Orndorff.

April 1990: Starrcade '89: Night Of The Iron Men. Also: Warrior-Hogan, Dustin Rhodes, Buzz Sawyer, WWF-shuffle.

May 1990: WrestleMania VI Main Event: Hulk Hogan vs. Ultimate Warrior: Exclusive Preview & Analysis. Also: Jerry Lawler, Al Perez, Lex Luger, Woman, LPWA.

June 1990: Tragedy Strikes Sting! How You Can Help Speed His Recovery. Also: Saito-Zbyszko, Earthquake, Ultimata Warrior, Jeff Jarrett.

July 1990: Our Urgent Plea To Hulk Hogan & Ultimate Warrior: Team Up And Eliminate These Men. Also: Steiners, Sting, Earthquake, Kokina Maximus, Tessa.

August 1990: The Experts Agree: Lex Luger Has Made Ric Flair A Broken Man. Also: Hulk Hogan, Ultimate Warrior, Pillman & Zenk, Terry Taylor, Jerry Lawler.

September 1990: Fighting Fire With Fire: The Awesome Foursome—Committed To Destroying The Horsemen. Also: Hulk Hogan, Hocksw Duggan, JYD, Adams-Jennie, Midnight Express.

October 1990: Sting: "I Feel Like I've Conquered The World!" Also: Legion Of Doom, Bushwhackers, El Gigante, Mike Rotundo, Juice Potrol. November 1990: Ric Flair & Hulk Hogan: A Tale Of Two Ex-Champions. Also: Sid Vicious, Sgt. Slaughter, Jeannie-Toni, Mr. Fuji & Orient Express.

December 1990: Halloween Havoc Horror! Why Sting Is Spooked By Sid Vicious. Also: Hulk Hogan, Jerry Von Erich, Jim Cornette, Larry Zbyszko. January 1991: Warning To The Ultimate Warrior: The Legion Of Doom Will Lead You To Your Destruction. Also: Paul E. Dangerously, Chris Adams, Steiners, Lawler-T. Funk.

February 1991: Our Plan For The "Hulkster" To Regain The WWF World Belt. Also: Terry Taylor, Rick Martel, Sting & Simmons, all-annoying, Stan Hansen.

March 1991: The Earthquake Feud Rumbles On: Will Hulk Hogan Be The Victim Of His Own Deadly Obsession? Also: Roberts-Martel, Sting-Hansen, Keirn-Perez, Barry Windham.

April 1991: The Steiners: They're Be Wrestling's Greatest Tag Team, But ... Also: Eddie Gilbert, Flair-Sting, Steiners, Roddy Piper, Larry Zbyszko, Sgt. Slaughter.

May 1991: Savage vs. Warrior: The Bloodlust Of Ex-Champions. Also: Steiners, Sting, Virgil, D. Sammartino-I. Koloff.

June 1991: Steiners, LOD: Tag Team Thunder. Also: Steve Williams, Nikita Koloff, I-C belt, Dundees, Am Anderson.

July 1991: Hogan's Burning Mad! Beating Slaughter For The Title Was Not Enough. Also: Virgil, Nasty, Steiners, Dan Spivey, Terry Funk.

August 1991: Are The Steiners Getting Too Cocky For Their Own Good? Also: Jerry Lawler, Rick Steamboat, Warrior-Uncle, Dustin Rhodes, Flair-Windham.

September 1991/Justice Is In The WWF ... And Hogan's In The Biggest Trouble Of His Life! Also: Missy-Paul E., Rick Rude, Curt Hennig, Stevie Ray, Diamond Exchange.

October 1991: Exclusive Preview & Analysis: SummerSlam '91. Also: Savage & Liz, Hogan & Warrior, Leg Luger, Santana-Atlas, Steve Williams, Studd-Zenk.

November 1991: Our Investigation Reveals ... The Truth Behind The Hogan-Savage Connection. Also: Lex Luger, Ric Flair, War Games, Mounties, foreign objects.

December 1991: A Night To Remember:
SummerSlam Provides Heat For The Cold
Months Ahead. Also: Alexandra York, Simmons-Luger, Lane & Cornette, Leatherface.

January 1992: Inside Wrestling Reveals:
Sting's Memo From A Maniac Also: Freebirds, Blackhearts, Bret Hart, Dusty Rhodes, Mike Rotundo.
February 1992: A Reign Of Pain: Lex Luger—The Agony Of A World Champion. Also: Bret Hart, Patriot, Rick Rude, Enforcers, The斯 & Rogers.
March 1992: Who's Winning The Hogan-Flear Wars? Also: Steiners, Survivor Series, Enforcers-Rhodes & Steamboat, Johnny B. Badd.

May 1992: War! WrestleMania Will Be Sid And Hulk's Battleground. Also: Justin Liger, Eddie Gilbert, Repo Man, Austin-Blossom, Tri-State & UWF.

June 1992: Sting: A New Champion, A New Era. Also: Hulk Hogan, Harley Race, Marcus Begwell, Tony Atlas, IRS & DiBiase.

July 1992: Is Regaining The WWF Title An Impossible Undertaking? Also: Sherri & Shawn, Big Van Vader, Gordy & Williams, Kamala, Joe Savoldi.

August 1992: The Closer Flair Gets ... The More Savage "Macho Man" Becomes. Also: Jack-Badd, Brian Christopher, LOD & Ellering, Taylor & Valentine, Dusty Wolfe.

September 1992: Hulk Hogan's "Retirement": Why The WWF Will Never Let Him Rest In Peace. Also: War Games, Big Van Vader, Kamala, Marty Janetty, U.K.

October 1992: SummerSlam '92: Exclusive Preview & Analysis. Also: S. Steiner-Muta, Ron Simmons, Eddie Gilbert, Eric Embry.

November 1992: The Great American Crash: Vader Crushes Sting For The WCW World Title. Also: Ric Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Modusa, Warlord & Barbarian-Bushwhackers, top rope rule.

December 1992: Hey, Ric Flair: Stop Whining And Start Winning. Also: Razor Ramon, Heavenly Bodies, Jeff Jarrett, Windham & D. Rhodes, NWA title.

January 1993 (Special Edition): 80,355 Fans Can't Be Wrong: This Was The Greatest SummerSlam Ever! Also: WWF-USWA, LOD, Sting-Simmons, Bret-Shango, Rude-Dustin.

March 1993: Who Controls The Balance Of Power In The WWF? Also: Shawn Michaels, Nikita Koloff, Windham-Dustin, Survivor Series, Rod Price.

April 1993: Now Blood! The Wrestlers Who Could Ruin The WWF In '93. Plus: Z-Man & Gunn, Sting-Vader, Dangerous Alliance, Ric Flair.

May 1993: Exclusive WrestleMania IX Match Analysis. Also: Andre the Giant, Pillman & Austin, Great Muta, Headshrinkers-Steiners, 2 Cold Scorpio.

August 1993: Hulk Hogan vs. Yokozuna: The "Hulkster" Faces His Biggest Challenge Ever! Plus: Jeff Jarrett, Maxx Payne, Sid Vicious, Cactus-Vader, Bret Hart.

January 1994 (Special Issue): Wrestling's Seasonal Spectaculars! WWF's SummerSlam, WCW's Fall Brawl. Plus: Rick Martel, Missy Hyatt, Razor-Schyster, Steven Regal, Orndorff-Flair, Mascara-Liger.

February 1994: Our Holiday Wish List For 1994. Plus: Hogan-Savage-Bret, Hockson Duggan, Doinks, Hollywood Blonds, Steven Regal.

March 1994: Inside Wrestling Predicts: What's In Store For '94. Plus: Nasty & Missy, Col. Parker, Ludvig Borga, chairs, Survivor Series, Diesel-Nichols.

April 1994 (Special Issue): The Inside Wrestling Computer Tournament. Also: Lex Luger, Starrcade, Yoko-Fuji, Ric Flair, Curt Hennig, Funk-Sabu.

May 1994: Lex Luger & Bret Hart: Their Greatest Triumphs, Their Gravest Tragedies. Also: Flair-Rude, Rick Morton, Heenan-Bockwinkel, Brian Christopher, Yoko-Booger.

June 1994: Wake Up, Rick Steamboat: Ric Flair Is Still "Slick" Ric! Also: Jimmy Snuka, Tony Anthony, IRS, Bruise Brothers, Alundra Blayze, Freebirds.

July 1994 (Special Issue): A Look Into Wrestling's Future: You Won't Believe What You'll See! Also: Ron Simmons, Sting, Earthquake-Booger, Bob Armstrong, Diesel.

August 1994: 10 Years After Rock 'n' Wrestling: It's Time For Roddy To Get Rowdy Again! Also: Hulk Hogan, 911, Freebirds, rulebreakers, Cornette & Bodies, Bushwhackers.

October 1994 (Special Issue): WCW Midyear Report. Also: Doink, Vader-Race, Mabel, Dory Funk Jr., Owen-Bret, Hall of Fame.

March 1995: Predictions 1995. Also: Nasty, Razor Ramon, Tasmanian, Kid-Man O'-War, Pillman & Hogan.

June 1995: The Beginning Of The End? Will Hulk Hogan Get Burned By Friendly Fire? Also: Steve Austin, Gangstas, Public Enemy, Bret-Owen, Jeff Jarrett.

August 1995: The Untold Truth: WrestleMania X—The Winners And Losers. Also: Johnny B. Badd, Barn-Bam Bigelow, John Studd, Bubba-Sting.

October 1995 (Special Issue): WCW Midyear Report. Also: Randy Savage, Bret & Cactus, Sting, Diesel, Hawk.

November 1995: One Defense In Four Months?! Strip Hulk Hogan Of The Title—Now! Also: Alex Wright, Tatanka, King of Ring, Chris Benoit, Backlund-Clinton.

December 1995: White With Fright, Green With Envy: Why The Undertaker Had To Bury Kama. Also: Vader-Hogan, Warrior-Renegade, Gangstas-PE, Waylon Mercy, Heavenly Bodies.

January 1996: Our Holiday Wish List For 1996! Also: Scott Norton, Sid Vicious, Psicosis-Misterio, Barry Horowitz, Sabu.

February 1996: Wrestling's Top Stars: What

1996 Has In Store For Them! Also: Goldust, Sherri-Parker, Mike Whipwreck, Smokin' Gunns.

March 1996: His Excellency: How Bret Masterminded Diesel's Execution. Also: Jeff Jarrett, Giant, Jim Cornette, Survivor Series, Eddy Guerrero.

June 1996: Luger Or Hogan? If Sting Makes The Wrong Choice, He's Through! Also: Road Warriors, Roddy Piper, Ahmed Johnson, Raven, Al Snow

August 1996: The Greening Of Wrestling Now. **Sting & Shawn Will Become \$50,000,000 Men!** Also: Bodysnappers, Giant, Guerrero-Misterio, George Steele, Goldust & Marlene.

October 1996 (Special Issue): WCW Midyear Report. Also: Jake Roberts, Yokozuna, Giant-Konnan, Ahmed Johnson, Chris Jericho, strutters.

November 1996: The Steiners: Feasting On A Buffet Of Violence. Also: Shawn Michaels, Subdu-Douglas, King of Ring, Eddy Guerrero, truck stop terror.

December 1996: Three Women For Four Horsemen? The Hot Search For A Fourth Filly Has Begun! Also: Sunny & Gunns, Giant, Goldust, Cornette & Hart, Jerry Jarrett.

Holiday 1996 (Special Issue): The Tombstone: Wrestling's Deadliest Finisher. Also: 1997 calendar, "Psycho" Sid, Benoit-Misterio, Steiners-NWO, Pit Bull I, Justin Liger.

July 1997: Trouble In Egvilles: Is There An NWO Within The NWO? Also: Chris Candido, Bret-Shawn, Ric Flair, Joey Styles, Liger-Benoit.

March 1997: Why Bret's Execution Will Be Excellent By WrestleMania. Also: Roddy Piper, Syxx, Survivor Series, Steve Austin, talent scouts.

May 1997: Giant vs. Hogan: "Hey, Little Man, What Ya Gonna Do?" Also: Woman-Benoit-Sullivan, Shawn-Bret, Underaker, Scott Hall, Sabu.

June 1997: Ahmed Johnson Reveals: "I Almost Joined The Nation Of Domination." Plus: Mankind, Lex Luger, NWO, Davey Boy Smith, Jerry Graham.

September 1997: The NWO's Anniversary Report. Plus: Lex Luger, Shawn-Bret, Terry Funk, Rob Van Dam, Ken Shamrock.

October 1997 (Special Issue): WCW Midyear Report. Plus: LOD-PG-13, Rob Van Dam, Flair & Horsemen, Ken Shamrock, McMichael-White, Madd & Mama Maxxine.

November 1997: WWF War Zone: Inter-federation Battles Rock The Sport! Plus: Ahmed Johnson, Curt Hennig, Nueva World Order, Chris Candido, Dan Severn.

December 1997: Losing Is Bull! Has Dennis Rodman Had It With Hulk Hogan? Plus: Steve Austin, Jarrett & Dabro, Harts, Funk-Francine, Chris Jericho.

Holiday 1997 (Special Issue): The Steiners' Million-Dollar Gamble! Plus: 1998 calendar, Alex Wright, The Patriot, Sgt. Slaughter, Turnbuckle Turkey Awards.

January 1998: Sexy Seasons Greetings From

Sable: Our Holiday Wish For The Stars. Plus: Bret Hart, Rey Misterio Jr., Steve Austin, WCW Executive Committee, Fritz Von Erich.

February 1998: Wrestling's Top Stars: What's Ahead For 1998. Plus: Brian Pillman, Sting, Hunter Hearst Helmsley, Reckless Youth-Flash Funk.

March 1998: Hart Transplant! The Truth Behind Bret's Defection To WCW. Plus: Steve McMichael, Bam-Bam Bigelow, Steve Austin, Disco Inferno.

April 1998 (Special Issue): The 1998 Inside Wrestling Computer Tournament. Also: Scott Hall, Moline, Chris Benoit, Gunn & James, Sabu-Sandman.

May 1998: Is The WWF Screwing Another Hart? Plus: Steve Austin, Dallas Page, Booker T, Larry Zbyszko, Al Snow.

June 1998: Exclusive! Steve Austin: The 10 Men Who Inspired His Toughness. Plus: Dusty & Dustin, Perry Saturn, Mortis, Jeff Jarrett.

July 1998 (Special Issue): Top Stars Answer Your Personal Questions. Plus: Jericho-Misterio Jr., Steve Austin, Sunny, Scott Steiner, Christopher-Michikou.

Aug. 1998: WrestleMania XIV: The Real Winners And Losers. Plus: Sunny, Curt Hennig, Dan Severn, Ultimo Dragon.

Sept. 1998: Power Surge! While The NWO Fiddles ... These Men Are Burning. Plus: Sable, Ultimo-Guerrero, DeGeneration X-Owen, Rocky Maivia, Mad Russian-Rambo.

Oct. 1998 (Special Issue): WCW Midyear Report. Plus: Steve Austin, Take Michinoku, Al Snow, Hollywood Hogan, Roddy Piper, Misawa-Kiwa.

Nov. 1998: Austin vs. Goldberg: Who Would Win And Why? Plus: Bret Hart, Duke Love, Junkyard Dog, Helmsley-Michaels, Ray-Booker.

Dec. 1998: DDP's Big Bang Theories: Cutting Loose On Life, Love, & The Ultimate Buzz. Plus: Sable-Jackie, Mankind, Hogan-Horac, D-Lo, APW.

Holiday 1998 (Special Issue): Kane: Still Haunted By His Day Of Glory. Plus: Eddy Guerrero, Stevie Ray, Val Venis, turnbuckle turkeys, bonus calendar.

Jan. 1999: Seasons Greetings With A Bang: Our Holiday Wish List For The Stars! Plus: Severn-Shamrock, Konnan, Arn, Undertaker-Kane, Chris Jericho.

Feb. 1999: Wrestling's Top Stars: What's Ahead For '99! Plus: Hogan & Hart, D-Lo, Ken Shamrock, Slaughter-Snow.

March 1999: Estrange Situation! Insider Reveals: "Shane Still Resents His Father!" Plus: X-Pac, Hogan-Warrior, Jesse Ventura, Billy Kidman, Scott Norton.

April 1999: (Special Issue): The 1999 Inside Wrestling Computer Tournament. Plus: Bossman-McMahon, Steiner & Bischoff, Hollywood Hogan, Wrath, Blue Meanie.

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BLACKJACK MULLIGAN JR.

(Continued from page 59)

True enough, I did talk to my father. I did not force him to do anything he didn't want to do... or had to do. Look back to *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, if you have to. I told everyone, in black and white, precisely what I said. Unfortunately there are too many people who can't read what's written, or who prefer to read facts into my statements that just weren't there.

I quote from my other article: "Damnit, Dad, do what you've got to do," I told my father; "if just for your own sanity... do it, and go all the way."

I hope everyone will notice that I'm not forcing my father into any

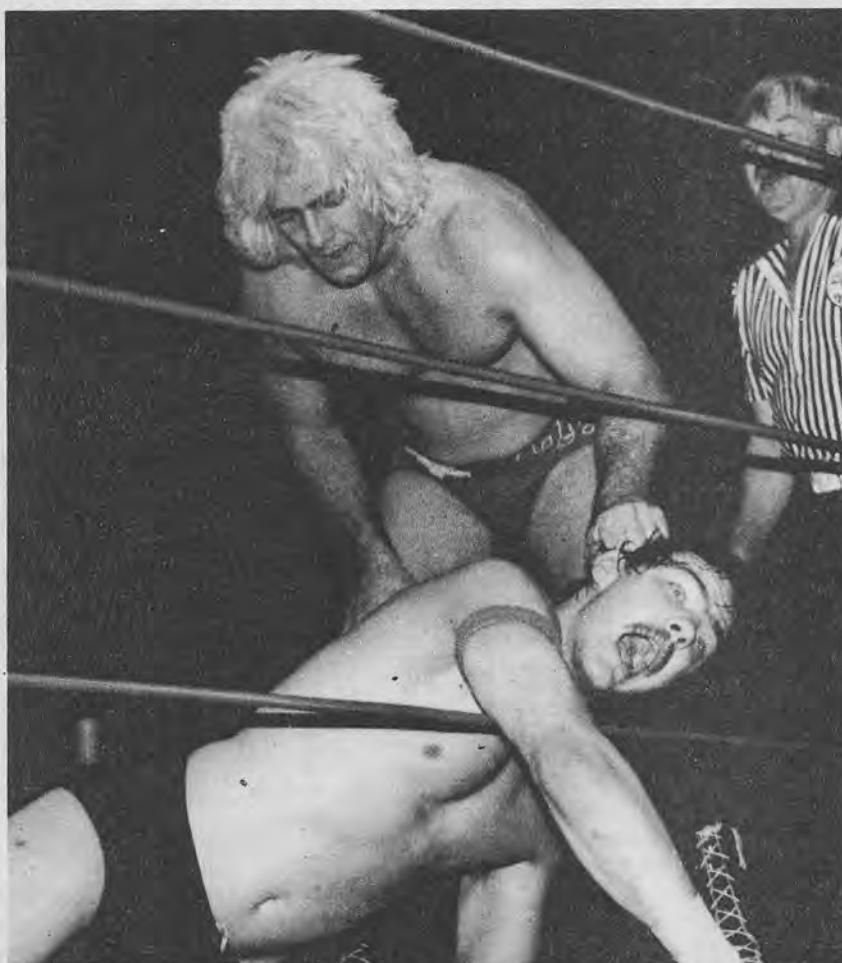
kind of action whatsoever. Notice that I told him to *do what he has to do*. That's all any man can hope for in the first place.

The problem with my father was that he just was not happy as he was. He had to make some sort of change if he was going to be able to keep his sanity.

Yes, I also told him to "go all the way." Again, that is only a part of my basic outlook on life: If you're going to do something, go all the way, do it right, or don't bother doing it at all. Again, that's all any man can be expected to do.

But like I said earlier, there are too many people who are ready and willing to condemn us for my

As long as Mulligan Jr. maintains a schedule of matches against such men as Flair (below) and Farris (opposite right), he can depend on the support of the fans.



father's actions. That's too bad, because it puts me in the spot of having to defend myself for something somebody else is doing.

So the result of all this is that my father's friends have abandoned me . . . they blame me for the shocking change that he's gone through.



My own friends have abandoned me . . . they also feel I'm responsible for my father doing what he's been doing. My explanations to them have meant nothing.

Of course, my father has abandoned me, for the time being. His loyalties now lie elsewhere, and he must follow his own path from now on.

So now I stand alone. I have no father and I have no friends. All I have left now are you, the fans.

The only way I can hope to make my friends understand is to hope that they will see me in the ring, that they will know that I have not changed, even though my father has. But even that may not be enough.

I hope that at least you wrestling fans will understand my own position and continue to support me in the future as strongly as you have in the past. □

HEY, FANS, EVER HEAR OF DAN SHOCKET?

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INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

1—HULK HOGAN

(-) WCW World champion

2—HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY

(10) WWF World champion

3—MITSUHARU MISAWA

(5) All-Japan Triple Crown champion

4—JEFF JARRETT

(-) WWF Intercontinental champion

5—CHRIS BENOIT

(6) WCW U.S. champion

6—THE ROCK

(11) No. 2 contender: WWF World title

7—TAZ

(3) ECW World champion

8—KEIJI MUTO

(8) IWGP heavyweight champion

9—BILL GOLDBERG

(-) No. 2 contender: WCW World title

10—MANKIND

(-) No. 3 contender: WWF World title

11—STING

(4) No. 3 contender: WCW World title

12—ROB VAN DAM

(12) ECW TV champion

13—SID VICIOUS

(-) No. 4 contender: WCW World title

14—RICK STEINER

(-) WCW TV champion

15—NAOYA OGAWA

(-) NWA heavyweight champion

WCW

1—HULK HOGAN

(-) 275, Venice Beach, CA

2—CHRIS BENOIT

(2) 218, Edmonton, Alberta

3—BILL GOLDBERG

(7) 270, Tulsa, OK

4—STING

(3) 260, Venice Beach, CA

5—SID VICIOUS

(8) 318, West Memphis, AR

6—RICK STEINER

(6) 248, Detroit, MI

7—DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE

(10) 260, Tampa, FL

8—PERRY SATURN

(-) 234, Boston, MA

9—LENNY LANE

(-) 212, Hibbing, MN

10—BUFF BAGWELL

(11) 240, Marietta, GA

11—ERNEST MILLER

(13) 235, Atlanta, GA

12—BRET HART

(-) 235, Calgary, Alberta

13—EDDY GUERRERO

(15) 221, El Paso, TX

14—REY MISTERIO JR.

(-) 140, San Diego, CA

15—SHANE DOUGLAS

(-) 249, Pittsburgh, PA

WWF

1—HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY

(3) 279, Greenwich, CT

2—JEFF JARRETT

(7) 230, Nashville, TN

3—THE ROCK

(4) 272, Miami, FL

4—MANKIND

(-) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM

5—KANE

(8) 345, parts unknown

6—BILLY GUNN

(9) 256, Austin, TX

7—PAUL WIGHT

(10) 500, Atlanta, GA

8—STEVE BLACKMAN

(13) 245, Annville, PA

9—BIG BOSSMAN

(12) 310, Cobb County, GA

10—X-PAC

(-) 212, Minneapolis, MN

11—AL SNOW

(-) 232, Lima, OH

12—TEST

(-) 302, Toronto, Ontario

13—D-LO BROWN

(2) 305, Bronx, NY

14—KEN SHAMROCK

(14) 235, San Bernardino, CA

15—CHYNA

(-) 201, Nashua, NH

ECW

1—TAZ

(1) 248, Red Hook, NY

2—ROB VAN DAM

(2) 237, Battle Creek, MI

3—YOSHIHIRO TAJIRI

(3) 224, Tokyo, Japan

4—JERRY LYNN

(6) 214, Minneapolis, MN

5—SUPER CRAZY

(5) 172, Mexico City, Mexico

6—SABU

(4) 225, Bombay

7—SPIKE DUDLEY

(9) 155, Philadelphia, PA

8—MASATO TANAKA

(-) 235, Tokyo, Japan

9—UGANDA

(-) 412, Uganda

10—JUSTIN CREDIBLE

(8) 225, Waterbury, CT

11—LANCE STORM

(7) 234, Calgary, Alberta

12—LITTLE GUIDO

(11) 221, Howard Beach, NY

13—MAHONEY

(10) 361, Carteret, NJ

14—VITO LOGRASSO

(12) 236, New York, NY

15—SIMON DIAMOND

(13) 230, Richmond, VA

INTERNATIONAL

1—MITSUHARU MISAWA

(1) 228, Ashikaga, Japan

2—KEIJI MUTO

(2) 245, Yamanashi, Japan

3—NAOYA OGAWA

(9) 286, Tokyo, Japan

4—MANABU NAKANISHI

(-) 235, Tokyo, Japan

5—MR. NIEBLA

(-) 185, Cuadilloan, Mexico

6—MASATO TANAKA

(-) 235, Tokyo, Japan

7—VADER

(3) 450, Denver, CO

8—KENDO KA SHIN

(-) 195, parts unknown

9—GARY STEELE

(12) 241, London, England

10—YOSHINARI OGAWA

(-) 202, Tokyo, Japan

11—PERRO AGUAYO

(6) 220, Zacatecas, Mexico

12—MR. GANNOSUKE

(-) 223, Tokyo, Japan

13—EL HIJO DEL SANTO

(4) 180, Tulancingo, Mexico

14—ATSUSHI ONITA

(7) 221, Nagasaki, Japan

15—ATLANTIS

(-) 180, Guadalajara, Mexico

TOP 15 TAG TEAMS

1—MITSUHARU MISAWA & YOSHINARI OGAWA

(-) All-Japan International tag team champions

2—BARRY & KENDALL WINDHAM

(-) WCW World tag team champions

3—THE UNDERTAKER & PAUL WIGHT

(-) WWF World tag team champions

4—TOMMY DREAMER & RAVEN

(-) ECW World tag team champions

5—HARLEM HEAT

(-) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title

6—YUJI NAGATA & MANABU NAKANISHI

(-) IWGP International tag team champions

7—BRADSHAW & FAAROOQ

(5) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title

8—JEFF & MATT HARDY

(8) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title

9—BAM BAM BIGELOW & DALLAS PAGE

(-) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title

10—CHRISTIAN & EDGE

(10) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title

11—SHANE DOUGLAS & DEAN MALENKO

(-) No. 3 contenders: WCW World tag title

12—THE ROCK & MANKIND

(-) No. 4 contenders: WWF World tag title

13—INSANE CLOWN POSSE

(-) No. 4 contenders: WCW World tag title

14—DUKES DALTON & KNUCKLES NELSON

(-) NWA tag team champions

15—JOHNNY ACE & MIKE BURTON

(-) No. 1 contenders: All-Japan International tag title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue ... Championships highlighted in bold on the "Roll Call Of Champions" have changed hands since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended September 10, 1999

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALL-JAPAN ALL-ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

mitsuharu misawa & yoshinari ogawa

(August 25, 1999; from Takao Omori & Yoshihiro Takayama; Hiroshima, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSUHARU MISAWA

(May 2, 1999; from Vader; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

mitsuharu misawa & yoshinari ogawa

(August 25, 1999; from Takao Omori & Yoshihiro Takayama; Hiroshima, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSUHARU MISAWA

(May 2, 1999; from Vader; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL PRO WRESTLING UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: MAXX JUSTICE

(July 10, 1999; won four-corners match; San Jose, CA)

ECW WORLD CHAMPION: TAZ

(January 10, 1999; from Shane Douglas; Kissimmee, FL)

ECW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TOMMY DREAMER & RAVEN

(August 26, 1999; from Buh Buh Ray & D-Von Dudley; Elmhurst, NY)

ECW TELEVISION CHAMPION: ROB VAN DAM

(April 4, 1998; from Bam Bam Bigelow; Buffalo, NY)

IWGP HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: KEIJI MUTO

(January 4, 1999; from Scott Norton; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: YUJI NAGATA & MANABU NAKANISHI

(August 28, 1999; from Tatsutoshi Goto & Michiyoshi Ohara; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: KENDO KA SHIN

(August 28, 1999; from Koji Kanemoto; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP JUNIOR TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SHINJIRO OTANI & TATSUHITO TAKAIWA

(July 13, 1999; from The Great Sasuke & Jushin Liger; Morioka, Japan)

MARYLAND CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BRUISER

(September 5, 1999; from Tom Brandi; Baltimore, MD)

MARYLAND CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

JIMMY CICERO & ROMEO VALENTINO

(July 8, 1999; from Bruiser & Adam Flash; Baltimore, MD)

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: NAOYA OGAWA

(March 14, 1999; from Dan Severn; Yokohama, Japan)

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE NATIONAL CHAMPION: DOUG GILBERT

(October 24, 1998; from Stevie Richards; Cherry Hill, NJ)

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: COLORADO KID

(January 9, 1999; from Chris Michaels; Nashville, TN)

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

DUKES DALTON & KNUCKLES NELSON

(June 19, 1999; from Public Enemy; Dorchester, MA)

NWA GEORGIA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BART SAWYER

(June 27, 1999; from Dusty Dotson; Stockbridge, GA)

NWA NEW ENGLAND JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JAY JAILETT

(April 3, 1999; from Louis Ortiz; Milford, CT)

NWA NEW ENGLAND HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: KNUCKLES NELSON

(April 30, 1999; from Trooper Gilmore; Somerville, MA)

NWA NEW ENGLAND TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ARK ANGELS

(March 13, 1999; from The House of Pain; Southbridge, MA)

NWA NORTH AMERICAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: CASSIDY O'REILLY & AIR PARIS

(August 15, 1999; from Ashley Hudson & Cory Williams; Nashville, TN)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MITSUHARU MISAWA

(May 2, 1999; from Vader; Tokyo, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: YOSHINARI OGAWA

(July 19, 1998; beat Satoru Asako in tournament final; Niigata, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MITSUHARU MISAWA & YOSHINARI OGAWA

(August 25, 1999; from Takao Omori & Yoshihiro Takayama; Hiroshima, Japan)

PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING AMERICAS CHAMPION: FLASH FLANGAN

(February 5, 1999; from Ace Darling; Reading, PA)

PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: GLEN OSBOURNE

(August 14, 1999; beat Michael Modest in tournament final; Hamburg, PA)

SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BO DUP

(August 26, 1999; from Toad; Raleigh, NC)

TENNESSEE MOUNTAIN WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JEFF ANDERSON

(July 17, 1999; from Tracey Smothers; Jacksboro, TN)

WCW CRUISERWEIGHT CHAMPION: LENNY LANE

(August 19, 1999; from Rey Misterio Jr.; Lubbock, TX)

WCW TELEVISION CHAMPION: RICK STEINER

(May 9, 1999; from Booker T; St. Louis, MO)

WCW U.S. CHAMPION: CHRIS BENOIT

(August 9, 1999; from David Flair; Boise, ID)

WCW WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN

(July 12, 1999; from Randy Savage; Jacksonville, FL)

WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BARRY & KENDALL WINDHAM

(August 23, 1999; from Harlem Heat; Las Vegas, NV)

WWF EUROPEAN CHAMPION: MARK HENRY

(August 23, 1999; awarded title by Jeff Jarrett; Ames, IA)

WWF HARDCORE CHAMPION: AL SNOW

(September 7, 1999; awarded title by Davey Boy Smith; Albany, NY)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: JEFF JARRETT

(August 22, 1999; from D-Lo Brown; Minneapolis, MN)

WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: IVORY

(June 8, 1999; from Debra; Worcester, MA)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY

(August 23, 1999; from Mankind; Ames, IA)

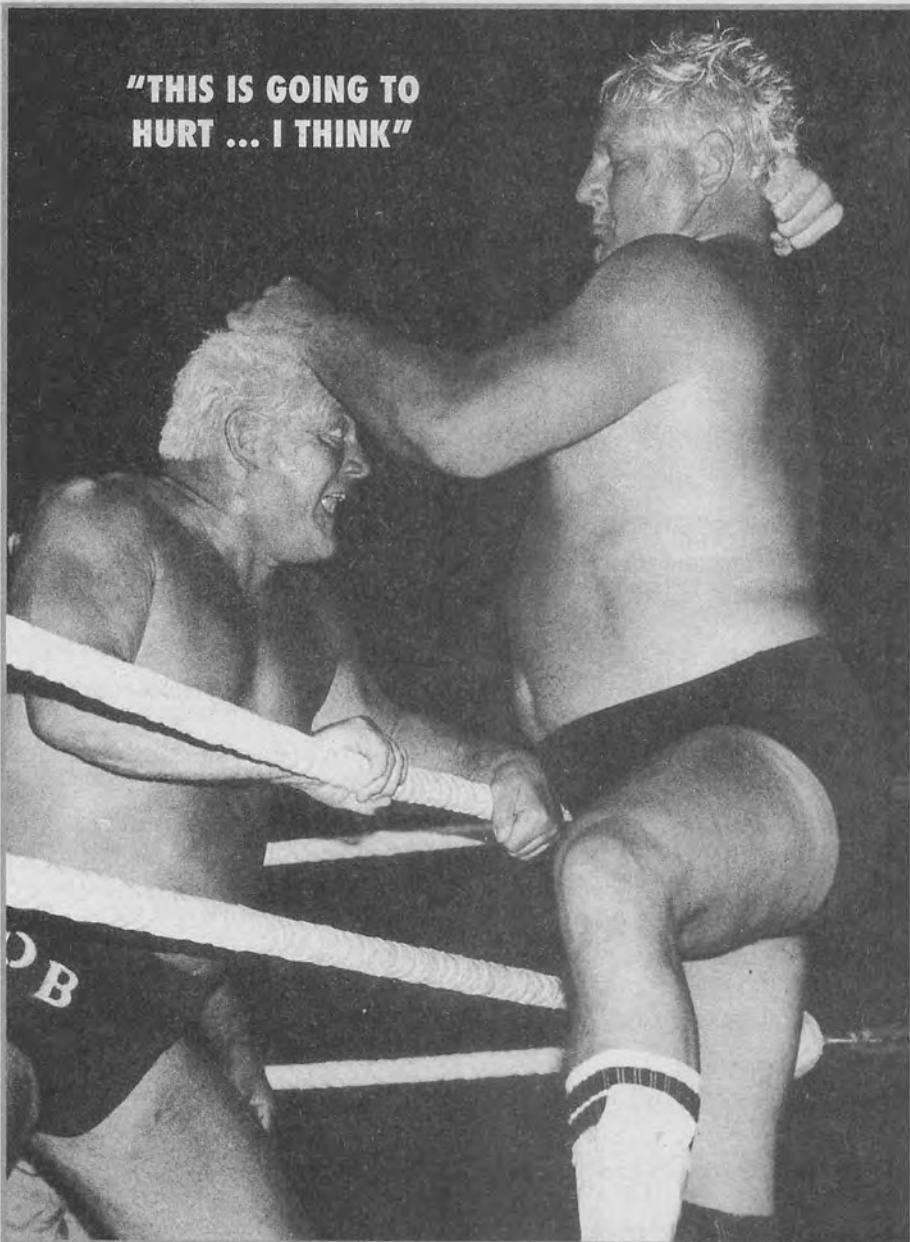
WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE UNDERTAKER & PAUL WIGHT

(September 7, 1999; from Mankind & The Rock; Albany, NY)

BLAST FROM THE PAST

This Month In Wrestling History

"THIS IS GOING TO
HURT ... I THINK"

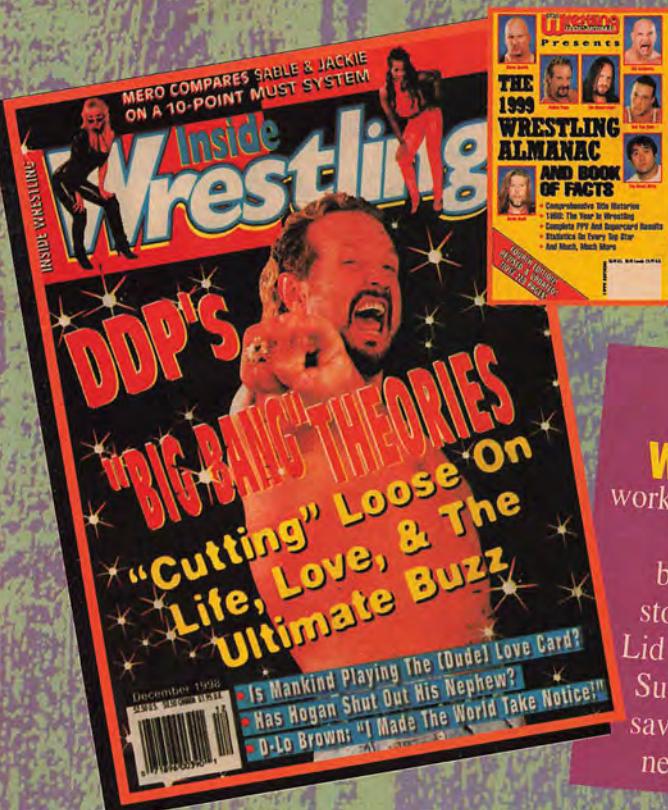


DICK MURDOCH vs. DICK THE BRUISER

December 1979

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